MARVEL COMICS
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WRESTLE WITH THE NEW WCW™ WRESTLING COMIC!
MARCH IN THE MACY'S THANKSGIVING PARADE WITH SPIDER-MAN

STAN LEE PRESENTS

MARVEL AGE®

Witterstaetter's Witticisms

Have you ever seen birds walking on a frozen lake? They dart along the glistening sheet, going where they please, regardless of whether the ice is thick ... or thin ... at any given point. Naive bravery.

I recently went to an art school in Connecticut and talked to a group of students ages 8 and up. I showed them a Marvel slide show and looked at their work, sometimes handed to me timidly, other times with much bravado. It was encouraging, the questions they asked, their enthusiasm for art.

Being an artist is a dream for them right now. Maybe it's a dream that will flower into a life goal, or maybe it's a dream that will be replaced by other interests ... other dreams.

It doesn't matter. Because right now, they go along where their hearts tell them to go. There's something beautiful about that.

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MONDO MARVEL COMICS
I'VE GOT A SECRET
ITEM! The year was 1984. Dozens of Marvel heroes and villains were transported to a faraway planet by a funky dude called the Beyonder to compete in a Secret War to obtain their hearts' desires. By the end of the 12 issue conflict, Spider-Man had new threads, we had a totally new Spider-Woman, and the She-Hulk had joined the Fantastic Four!
All of this, and more, is chronicled in the new SECRET WARS trade paperback, which hits the stands in just a few weeks. Feast your eyes on this lovely Mike Zeck artwork, produced especially for the new cover! If any of you Marveloids missed this one the first time around, do yourselves a favor and give it a try.

FIRST ANNUAL FORBIE AWARDS — RESULTS!

ITEM! The results are in! You, the readers of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE have spoken — choosing what you thought were the very best Marvel Comics had to offer in 1991. If you weren't here for the balloting, it went like this:

Since there are several awards in the world of comics, but none that we know of that are voted for by *you*, the readers, we invited Marveloids everywhere to list their favorite writers, artists, series, etc., in a ballot provided in *Mondo Marvel 108*. Since that time, we've been feverishly tabulating the results, sent in by Ultra-Hipsters like Brett Cottone, Ben Butler, Michael Hamersky, Thom Chansky, M. Tennyson, Bob Humphrey, Matt Smith, Laurent Jacquinot, Jim Gross Jr., Bill Meechan, Nathaniel Kraus, John Chadwick, Gilmar Gamino, Chad Burris, Rick Carson, James Strong, and Joey and Jennifer Marchese. The only tough part was that there could only be one winner per category — the notable exception being the *Forbie Hall of Fame Award*, for Lifetime Achievement in Comics, since these folks *all* deserve our respect and admiration! And now — because you demanded it — the results!

OFFICIAL RESULTS OF 1991 FORBIE AWARDS:

BEST MARVEL SERIES: UNCANNY X-MEN
Runners-Up: MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS, FANTASTIC FOUR, X-MEN

BEST EPIC SERIES: GROO, The WANDERER
Runners-Up: HELLRAISER, CAR WARRIORS, AKIRA

BEST LIMITED SERIES: INFINITY GAUNTLET
Runner-Up: SWEET XVI

BEST GRAPHIC NOVEL OR TRADE PAPERBACK: DEATHTRAP: The VAULT
Runners-Up: THE HULK: GROUND ZERO, THE VERY BEST OF MARVEL COMICS

BEST STORY: SILVER SURFER #50: *"Deeply Buried Secrets"*
Runners-Up: FANTASTIC FOUR #358 "Whatever Happened To Alicia", UNCANNY X-MEN #281 "Fresh Up Start"

BEST STORY ARC: SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #173-178 "The Child Within"
Runner-Up: *UNCANNY X-MEN #278-280 "The Muir Island Saga"*

BEST COVER: *X-MEN #1 E Double-Gatefold version*
Runners-Up: INFINITY GAUNTLET #3 GHOST RIDER #15

BEST WRITER: Chris Claremont

BEST ARTIST: George Perez

BEST INKER: Terry Austin

BEST COLORIST: Glynis Oliver

BEST LETTERER: Rick Parker

BEST COVER ARTIST: Sam Kieth

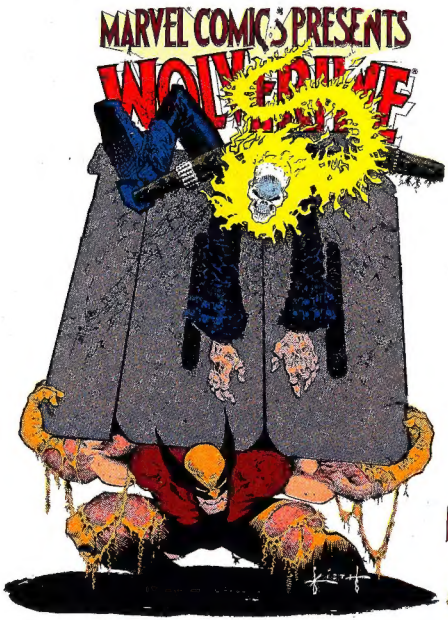
BEST EDITOR: Jim Salicrup

FORBIE HALL OF FAME for Lifetime Achievement in Comics: Stan Lee

Other Inductees Include: Chris Claremont, Mark Gruenwald, Jack Kirby, John Byrne, Tom Orzechowski, John Romita, Tom DeFalco, Christie Scheele

AN A-NAM-INOUS TIP

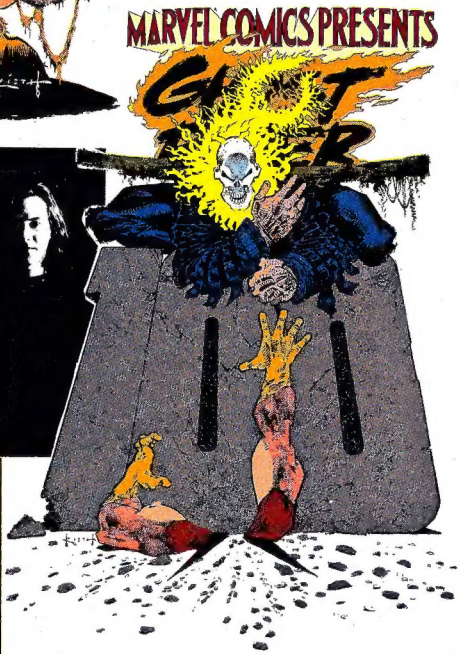
ITEM! Former Don Daley assistant now NAM penciler Kevin Kobasic wanted to let everybody know that in NAM 67-69, the Punisher will be featured in a prequel to the super-duper popular *Punisher Invades the 'Nam* storyline. See Frank Castle's first kill!



ALSO IN THE NEWS —

ITEM! *Operation: Galactic Storm* continues to heat up the comic shops, with its hard-hitting finale this month, in the pages of CAPTAIN AMERICA, AVENGERS, AVENGERS WEST COAST, QUASAR and WONDER MAN. This is one of the biggest events of the year, and it's still not too late to get involved! So do it!

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS hits a milestone with #100, with a special tale by Howard Mackie and Sam Kieth. This is a full-length, self-contained epic, and will lead into a new serial by Sam featuring the Ghost Rider. Looks good, kids. For a complete list of all the other Marvel comics that have reached that 100th issue, check out the Hembeck pages of MARVEL AGE #100.



TOURING CAN MAKE YOU CRAZY!

ITEM! *Mondo Marvel* would like to congratulate ultra-hipster Dan Cuddy for completing yet another United States tour with his band, Hypnolovewheel. His boss, the venerable Rob Tokar somehow managed to keep everything afloat in Dan's absence, as he gallavanted across the country in some 2 dozen cities! Hypnolovewheel's 4th album, *Angel Food*, hits the record stores in February.

Would this be considered a "Moobius?"

SASSY COW!

ITEM! Way, waaaay back, in MARVEL AGE #99, our *EpicGrams* feature reported on Managing Editor Marie Javins' "Wall of Cows." We even showed you some wonderful bovines by the esteemed Ted McKeever and John Wellington. The article went into great detail about the artwork provided to Marie by such notables as Jim Lee, Don Hudson, Sergio Aragonés and Mike Mignola — but we never showed you the art, or made mention of it again. Sorry, folks.

So here you have the first of, hopefully, many cows. This one is by the esteemed Moebius, the illustrious French illustrator.

Mo'BIUS

ITEM! Speaking of Moebius, the revered artist popped into our editorial dungeon the other day, as he was in town after a local comics convention. Several members of the Epic Comics crew went to lunch with him, including Managing Editor Marie Javins. This wonderful sketch was rendered on a greasy paper tablecloth, which set everyone at the table waffling over who would take it. Although some members didn't have the gumption to rip the artwork off the tablecloth, "Sassy" Marie had no such reservations. "I can be tacky upon demand," she proudly boasts.

THE MEDIA WATCH CONTINUES — STILL

ITEM! Wow! You guys are really diligent! Our latest inductee, and No-Prize recipient, is one Dustin Vigil, of Agoura, California. Dustin spotted a piece in *Entertainment Weekly* about the new Spider-Man and Black Panther film projects.

Spider-Man and Black Panther film projects? Well, Marveloids, your guess is as good as ours about the latter flick, but things seems to be speeding along on the proposed Spidey film. James Cameron, who brought us the action-packed *Terminator 2*, is in development with Sony Pictures. Good luck, Jim!

Jason Baker, of Iselin, New Jersey eyed a special program on comic books on the VH-1 cable network, which featured Todd McFarlane and SPIDER-MAN. Thanks, Jace! Michael Edgell, of Glenville, Arizona, sent in a clipping titled, *Comics Appeal to New, Varied Crowds*, in the November 1 edition of the *Demon Dispatch*. Yes, that's the name of the paper, all right. If it wasn't right in front of us, we'd never believe it, either.

Also, Bob Humphrey, of Clear Lake, Iowa, spotted mucho Marvel paraphernalia on the ABC-TV soap, *General Hospital*. Bob says that a lawyer character, Scott Baldwin, has the following items in his office: the Wolverine and Captain America bisques, and framed copies of SPIDER-MAN #1 on his wall! Good eyes, everybody, and you've all been inducted into the time honored clique!

MAKES A CUPCAKE ANY SIZE—!

ITEM! Since 1992 heralds the ever Amazing Spider-Man's 30th anniversary celebration, we just thought you'd like an advance peek at this promotional art which will grace many a cover in the months ahead. Go easy on the cake, though, Spidey! Those tights show every bulge.

A MARVEL AGE exclusive! From a greasy paper tablecloth *to you!!*

AND THE WINNER IS —

ITEM! Everybody knows the FF's logo . . .and the Punisher's . . .and Spider-Man's. But, when our editorial team noticed that the main players in our *Operation: Galactic Storm*, the Shi-ar, didn't have a logo to call their own, they realized something had to be done!

They had a contest!

Everyone was invited to draft up a sketch, and the winner was former-Raider, Kevin Tinsley! Among the other fabulous prizes offered Kevin was the opportunity to have his achievement heralded in our *Mondo Marvel* column. By the way, Kev, Princess Lilandra says, "Thanks!"

MARVEL® TOP TEN LIST

Here we are, starting out a new year — 1992! It's a time for resolutions. . .a time for starting over. . .a time for change! You may have noticed that sometimes a new man or woman will step in to fill the shoes of a deceased hero or villain. . .the FF's Human Torch is a great example. We're sure many of you could think of characters who have gone back and forth more times than a yo-yo! So here before you is a list of the Top Ten Marvel Characters Who Have Changed Their Alter-Egos.

10. HOBIE BROWN, *a.k.a. the Prowler, fills in for Spider-Man.*

9. JOHNNY HORTON *turns into Griffin, who then turns into a flying dog.*

8. DON BLAKE *to Thor, Beta Ray Bill takes over, Thor returns, then is ousted, Eric Masterson tries.*

7. TONY STARK *to Iron Man, quits, James Rhodes takes over, replaced again by Tony.*

6. JEAN GREY *to Marvel Girl, dies, turns into Phoenix, dies, comes back, becomes Marvel Girl again.*

5. JASON MACENDALE *(the Jack O'Lantern) to Hobgoblin, replaced by new, mystery Jack.*

4. ORIGINAL BUCKY *dies, replaced by Rick Jones!*

3. NORMAN OSBORN *into Green Goblin, dies, then Harry Osborn takes over as new Gobbie!*

2. NED LEEDS HOBGOBLIN *dies, replaced by Jason Macendale, who changes to* real *goblin!*

1. CAPTAIN AMERICA *changes to Nomad, then back to Cap, then to the mysterious "Captain," then back to Cap.*

— Mike Lackey

WHAT'S YOUR SIGN?

ITEM! Bullpenner Joe Caponsacco brought this photo to our attention after his vacation to the Fort Rucker area of Alabama. "*Ghost Rider Street*" runs parallel to the Fort Rucker Military Training Academy and the Ghost Riders are the elite military brigade stationed there. Like a good Peter Parker protege, Joe snapped this pic and carried it back to New York. Good job, Joe. . .now get back to work!

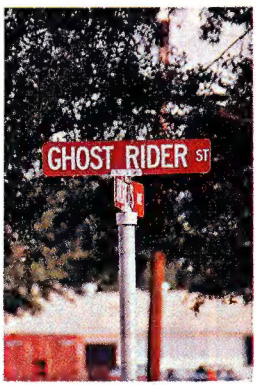


Photo by Joe Caponsacco

Photo by Jesus Gonzalez

REDEFINING FISHCAKE

ITEM! Have you ever had a birthday that you just wished everybody would leave you alone? Well, Epic Executive Editor Carl Potts certainly must've felt that way after being presented with Marvel's first-ever "*Fish Cake*." We're not talking about a nice, breaded and fried ball of sundry fish parts. No. We're talking *Fish-Cake*.

Carl, along with being an avowed "fishing nut" who doesn't like dead fish and *always* tosses back what he catches, is noted for his office's large aquarium, usually stocked with a varietv of maneating fish. Thusly, Assistant Editor Pat Garrahy produced this wonderful marshmallows-coconut-salmon culinary extravaganza, which not only tempted the bullpen's tummy, but kept the flies away as well!

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes!

Y'know, comic book fans seem to be the world's greatest letter writers. Not a day goes by without the Bullpen being swamped by a ton of mail from all over. Some of the letters resound with praise for a favorite artist or writer or for some special issue of a magazine. Others might contain criticisms of everything from the stories to the artwork to the coloring to the way Thor combs his hair! But all of them indicate a truly tremendous interest in our merry mags from the riotous ranks of Marveldom Assembled.

However, there's one very special type of letter which I'd like to yak with you about today. Although it doesn't fall into the category of praise or criticism, it represents a huge segment of our daily mail and it's something I can't remember ever discussing with you before.

What I'm referring to is — the type of letter we continually receive from fans, offering us ideas for stories.

It seems that almost every true believer has some character he or she has dreamed up, usually a villain, whom they'd like to see our heroes battle. Or else we're deluged with suggestions about which of our happy horde of heroes should team up with which other heroes to battle an endless gaggle of bad guys! And then, of course, there are the readers who send in ideas for new heroes or heroines, all with rare and exotic super powers and far out names.

Now here's the important point about all this. . .

Many of the ideas we get in the mail are perfectly valid. Some are clever, some are interesting, some are unusual and some provocative. Yet, we try to discourage readers from sending them to us! And this, in a nutshell, is the reason why. . .

We just don't need 'em!

Let me explain. Our writers and editors are rabid comic book fans, just like you. They get together a few times a month and kick ideas around among themselves, the same kind of ideas that you send to us. They say, "Hey, wouldn't it be cool if the Punisher got a crush on Mary Jane and Spider-Man got jealous?" or "What if the Human Torch had to fight a guy made out of asbestos?" Or "How about a character who can walk through walls, or turn into a human bomb, or who comes from a black hole in space?" or whatever. We've got a zillion "What ifs" and "How about's" of our own, ideas that we don't have enough time to work on ourselves!

But there's still a more compelling reason why there isn't much that we can do with ideas that are submitted to us. You may not have considered this before, but an idea by itself is just the beginning of the creative process. Almost anything can be an idea. You or I could spend a few minutes trying to create new characters, and we might come up with names like, "Lady Lightning Bug" or "Mr. Moonbeam" or "The Human Refrigerator" or "Maniacal Man" or "Bearhug" or "Super Shark." Some of those names might be usable, or they might be turn-offs.

By the way, I just thought of something. If any of you decide you like the names we mentioned above, "Lady Lightning Bug" or "Mr. Moonbeam" or "The Human Refrigerator" or "Maniacal Man" or "Bearhug" or "Super Shark", and if you manage to sell them to someone, thereby earning yourself a fortune, don't forget where you got 'em from! Just send our half of the boodle to ye olde Soapbox and we'll call it a deal!

So, until next ish, while a bevy of bombastic ideas keeps circling overhead, here's a little slogan to make the time go faster while you count the minutes till we meet again. . ."Naturam expellas furca, tamen usque recurret!" Or, if you prefer something a bit more exotic. . .

Excelsior!

Stan Lee

WILLIE LUMPKIN

© 1991 by Stan Lee and Dan DeCarlo

EVERY CHRISTMAS MY WIFE BUYS ME A GOOFY LOOKING TIE! BUT THIS YEAR IT'LL BE DIFFERENT!
HOW COME, HARV?
I JUST TALKED HER INTO CHECKING WITH THE GIFT COUNSEL AT DOOBER'S!
DOOBER
DEPT
12-18
HE'S AN EXPERT ON WHAT MEN WANT FOR CHRISTMAS!
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT SHE GETS ME?
ARE YOU SURE HE'LL LIKE IT?
MADAM, THESE TIES HAVE BEEN OUR BEST-SELLING ITEMS FOR YEARS!
COUNSELOR

? MARVEL® TRIVIA QUIZ ?

One of the great things about being young and reading Luke Cage was deciphering the dialogue codes — what did it mean when Luke yelled "Spit!" or "Christmas!" But that aside, Luke Cage was one of the most exciting Marvel characters of the 70s, first as HERO FOR HIRE, then as POWER MAN, then teamed in POWER MAN AND IRON FIST. Now in the 90s his time is coming again, and so we look back on his long and varied career in the twelve trivia teasers below! Answers on page 31.

— *Brian Nelson*

1) On the lam from charges that he killed Danny Rand, Luke has hidden in which city that dubbed him the "South Side Savior?"
A) Chicago
B) St. Louis
C) Detroit
D) Santiago

2) Which hero did Power Man and Iron Fist rescue from being baked alive in an abandoned water tower?
A) El Aguila
B) Moon Knight
C) Daredevil, the Man Without Fear
D) Sassafras, the Dog Filled With Fear

3) The Heroes for Hire teamed with the X-Men to combat:
A) Sabretooth and Constrictor
B) the Living Monolith
C) Unus the Untouchable
D) ring-around-the-collar

4) The battle against which criminal warlord first brought Luke Cage and Danny Rand together as a team?
A) Bushmaster
B) Cottonmouth
C) Sidewinder
D) Princess Python

5) And speaking of serpents, which super-team defeated the Sons of the Serpent with Luke's aid?
A) the Outlaws
B) the Rangers
C) the Defenders
D) the Sons of the Mongoose

6) Reed Richards hired Luke Cage to replace a powerless Ben Grimm in the Fantastic Four because:
A) he was legally required to do so by the EEOC
B) legal contracts require him to maintain four members in the FF
C) Luke had saved Johnny Storm's life
D) Reed thought unstable molecules could stop Luke's shirts from always getting shredded

7) LUKE CAGE, POWER MAN repeatedly brought Luke into conflict with which nefarious mechanical enemy?
A) Ultron-5
B) Tess-One
C) the Adaptoid
D) his office vending machine

8) Luke's first serious romance was with Claire Temple, a successful:
A) reporter
B) doctor
C) tennis player
D) mutant bounty hunter

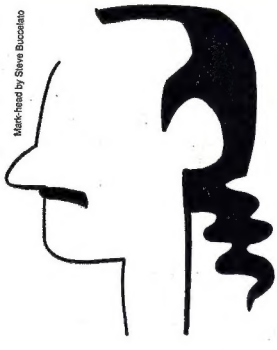
9) But that relationship was complicated by the return of Claire's first husband, now the super-powered:
A) Falcon
B) Black Goliath
C) Black Talon
D) Ex-Man

10) Which Acts of Vengeance figure premiered in the pages of HERO FOR HIRE fighting our own Luke?
A) the Wizard
B) Chemistro
C) the Grey Gargoyle
D) Robin Chapel of Damage Control

11) At Luke's offices above the Gem Theatre, his best friend was a young film student named:
A) Frank Capra
B) D.W. Griffith
C) Howard Hawks
D) Cecil B. De Mille

12) Dr. Noah Burstein conducted the experiments that gave Luke his powers in a lab constructed at:
A) Ryker's Island Prison
B) Seagate Prison
C) the Vault
D) the studio set for "GERALDO"

MARK'S REMARKS



Mark-head by Steve Buccellato

Shall I compare thee to a sandbox? I asked the Marvel Universe in my column two months ago. As those of you who read this column sacrilegiously know, I discussed in some detail the fun I had as a writer toiling in the sandbox of the Marvel Universe, how I felt that working within the framework of such a broad and breathtaking shared fictional backdrop as the M.U. was exhilarating, heady stuff.

This month I'd like to talk about the sandbox some more, this time not as someone playing in it, but as one of its designated custodians. First, let me tell you about my superior's job. As editor in chief of Marvel the company, Tom DeFalco is the designated highest authority of Marvel the universe. It is his job to arbitrate on all life and death matters in the universe. If a writer wants to kill an established character, you have to get Tom's approval. If a writer wants to bring a character back from the dead, you have to get Tom's approval. If a writer wants to change a character's name, costume, powers, marital status, origin, or anything major about an established character, you have to get Tom's approval.

So what's left for me, the senior executive editor, to do? My job is to coordinate guest appearances, approve all names of characters (even Tom's) so we can avoid duplication whenever possible (how many Destroyers do we have anyway), and plain ol' keep track of the state of the universe in general. Many fan-folks would call this keeping track of continuity, but not me. In my opinion, consistency is a more descriptive term than continuity. We all know stories continue, some smoothly, some by fits and starts. I'm concerned that they continue consistently. That's why I call it consistency. It's a big job, whatever you want to call it. We currently publish about 40 books set in the contiguous universe, and by the end of '92 it will be up to 50 books. This custodian job is only part of my responsibilities as exec ed, and no matter how hard I try, things get by me into print that hurt the sense of a consistent universe. Believe me, anything that hurts the universe hurts me, too — so completely do I identify with it.

So just how do mistakes, inconsistencies, and discrepancies happen? I've identified several major ways. The first of these are honest errors committed by conscientious people. You get the wrong reference. You forget to check a certain previous appearance of a character that turns out to be critical. There's a glitch in communication between creative people working for two separate editorial offices. Differing schedules and work habits mean that one writer has to go ahead with his or her part of a storyline a second writer will be tying into but hasn't reached yet. Things like that. A good recent example of this latter example, I was a party to. In INFINITY GAUNTLET, Quasar was erroneously depicted in his interim costume instead of his third and final costume. Why did this happen? Why did I allow it? Because at the time IG was being drawn, the design for Quasar's final costume had not been completed. You may be happy to know that a later issue of QUASAR explained the costume discrepancy, but even we couldn't explain why Makkari was reported as among the missing in IG but was active in QUASAR during the IG crossover. Sometimes a writer and editor don't even think something is significant enough to check out, and it slips out of the house without the parties who would be able to see the error in it.

Discrepancies and inconsistencies also occur when there are purposeful revisions done for aesthetic reasons. The eight Hulk stories told in the RAMPAGING HULK magazine are my favorite example. Their writer decided that there would be nothing wrong with depicting certain meetings between the Hulk and various early Marvel Universe figures which took place prior to the "historical" first meetings in the pages of early Marvel Comics (and now MARVEL MASTERWORKS). A later INCREDIBLE

THE DESTROYER
? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
THE MONSTROUS TENTACLES ENSNARE ME, BUT THIS IS ONLY A TEMPORARY AND MINOR SETBACK--!
I WILL EVENTUALLY FIGHT FREE!
AND I SHALL PURSUE THEE TILL THE CRACK OF DOOM!

HULK writer's story declared these eight stories to be merely movies of an alien filmmaker named Bereet. In other words, they hadn't "really" happened. Why was this done? The second writer believed that the continuity-implant stories in RAMPAGING HULK undermined the integrity of the stories they supposedly fit in between. For instance, showing a meeting of the Hulk and Avengers prior to the historic meeting of the five in AVENGERS #1 undermined the uniqueness of AVENGERS #1. Consequently the writer set about to rectify it. This was before I had my present position so I had no say in the matter. I'll let all of you decide if he was justified or not. The end result, though, was stories presented as legitimate to the readers turned out not to be.

The third way discrepancies and inconsistencies creep in are those purposeful monkey wrenches thrown into the underpinnings of the universe by mischievous (some might say spiteful) creative people. It's true (and you read it here first): there are a number of writers who take perverse delight in undermining the work of others because they don't like that other writer's work. This is frequently justified by the rationale for discrepancy category two, aesthetic reasons. We occasionally have one writer not-so-subtly sniping at one another: one writer declaring that any of Character X's appearances he didn't write were actually appearances of a Character X robot. . .or a character in one book claiming to be supreme in some way, trying to steal the thunder from a character in another book who makes the same claim. . .or pulling a "Dallas" and declaring another writer's work to be a dream or delusion. It's my job as custodian to try to prevent feud material from making it into print, but it's hard to be 100% effective when one doesn't see the book until it is completely done and has to leave the house in an hour or it will miss shipping to stores on time. The writers we have working at Marvel are an extraordinarily talented bunch, but sometimes their talents are skewed in peculiar directions. Marvel's editors have an expression for writers who do a lot of undermining of others' work. We say So-and-so "doesn't play well with other children." Sad but true, there are times when cranky children kick precious sand out of our sandbox.

Another reason some writers like to throw a purposeful monkey wrench into the works is to mess with readers' sense of "reality." By revising or even jettisoning portions of a character's backstory, a writer can shock a reader out of complacency ("What, you mean everything I know about Character X is wrong!?!"), throwing what was previously established into a cocked hat (like the negation of Vision and Scarlet Witch's kids, or Alicia being a Skrull for the last few years) or shedding new light on old events (the insertion of Trickshot into Hawkeye's origin or Stick into Daredevil's). This is done just for fun by some writers ("Boy, this will have fandom buzzing!"). For others, this is done by what they perceive as necessity ("As much as I hate to make Alicia a Skrull, I think getting Human Torch out of his marriage is worth it"). Writers must be wary, however — fans can turn against you when they think they're being messed with just for the sake of messing.

Another way dicrepancies happen is when editors fall down on the job and don't check or clear things they should. Some may do it deliberately: perhaps they suspect that if they were to check something out, it would get shot down, and they fear upsetting their poor fragile writer for various reasons, some admirable and some cowardly. When things aren't checked, we end up with needless duplication, ill-advised revivals, and aggravating inconsistencies. Here's a recent case in point of system failure. A recent WEB OF SPIDER-MAN featured a brand new Firebrand, the original being an Iron Man villain who was killed by Scourge. Had this been checked with me, it wouldn't have happened. I'd have said no to a new Firebrand on these grounds: 1. The original was a student radical, a real late 60s — early 70s type. I feel this was fine for then, outdated now. 2. DC had a Firebrand character since the 40s, and whenever possible I want to avoid sharing names with our competitors. Had this been checked with me, I would have first had the editor check to see if any of our currently existent fire and heat related villains would have served the story's purposes (there're five I can think of). If not, I'd have had them change the character's name and visual so he would have been a completely new character instead of a retread. Why did Firebrand slip between the cracks? In the transition of the Spider-Man books from one editor to another, each thought the other department did or would do the approval process.

I have still more to say on this subject; namely, the effect of all these discrepancies on the sandbox of the Marvel Universe. But there's enough grist in it for a whole 'nother column. Stay tuned, and let me know what you think of all this in care of this magazine.

— Mark Gruenwald

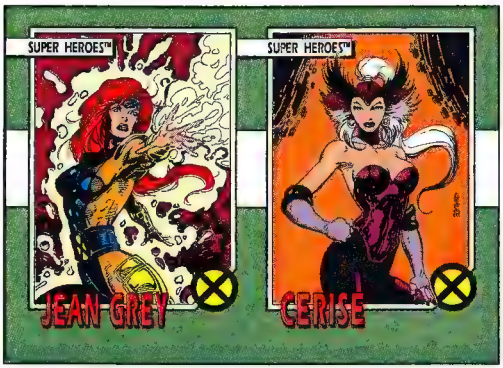
MARVEL® LICENSING

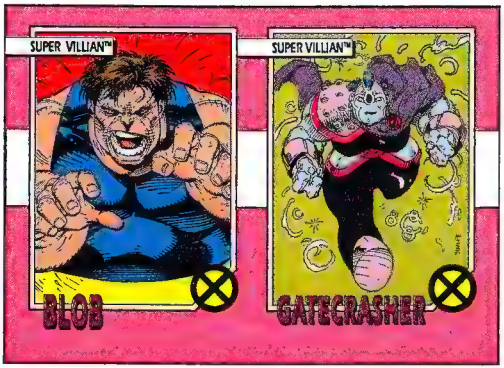
X-MEN TRADING CARDS

First there was the 1990 Marvel Universe Trading Cards. Then came the 1991 Marvel Universe Trading Cards. And unless you were busy fighting the Krees and the Skrulls on some distant corner of the galaxy you know how incredibly popular those cards were. Well, hold onto your Walkman, because the news for 1992 from the people at Impel who make the Marvel cards is that there will be not one, not two, but *three* all-new and different Marvel trading card lines! And it begins in February with the X-Men trading cards drawn by Jim Lee!

That's right, Jim Lee is penciling and inking the entire line which includes 100 regular cards, 5 dazzling gold foil hologram cards and 1 check list card — making a total of 106 cards. Coloring the entire line is Paul Mounts whose incredibly beautiful work on the previous two Marvel Universe trading card lines made him the acclaimed natural for this project. But as exciting as the news about a line of trading cards done by one of the hottest artists in the industry is, it's just the start of the big news. Not only did Jim Lee draw all the cards, he also personally signed 2,000 of them! These cards are randomly packed. And because there are so few, they're certain to be instant collector's items for whichever lucky fan finds them. And speaking of instant collector's items, the holograms for the Marvel cards have been praised not only by comics fans, but by trading card fans as being the best ever done. This year the holograms go for the gold — gold foil, that is. In the past, the holograms were produced in silver foil. This year Impel is making them even more dramatically different and having them produced in a special gold foil. The characters in this special line are Magneto, Wolverine, Cable, Gambit and an X-Men team shot. They have new art, different from the regular cards, and they look great!

The categories for the X-Men line also feature something new and excitingly different. We'll get to what that difference is in just a moment. But first, here are the categories: Super Heroes (40 cards in this group), Super-Villains (30 cards in this group), Teams (10 cards in this group), Allies (5 cards), Danger-Room (9 cards), Ex-X-Men (5 cards) and 1 checklist card. Now, it's the Danger Room category that has the special feature here. Each individual card in this category is like the piece to a puzzle, assemble the entire Danger Room category and you'll discover that you've created one gigantic action illustration!





The X-MEN trading cards, like the 1991 MARVEL UNIVERSE cards, were designed on the Macintosh IIci computer by Joe Kaufman and Bob Budiansky, with the assistance of David Wohl. These are just a sampling—and be on the lookout for those autographed cards!

Think we're done listing all the features? Think again! And it's entirely possible that we've saved the best feature in this mutant line for last. As you know, the X-Men family of titles is famous for bringing in some of the best, most exciting new characters in the Marvel Universe. Well there will be a bunch of new mutants coming your way in 1992. And you've probably already guessed where they will debut. That's right — they'll make their first appearance in the 1992 X-Men trading card line! The characters are Masque, Shiva and a dangerous new team, the Upstarts, and all we can say is, watch out for them in the mutant books — because their impact is going to be explosive!

So there you have it — the highlights of the debut line of X-Men cards! And best of all, it's just the beginning of the Marvel trading card fun. Be here in a few short weeks when we talk about the all new Marvel Universe III line!

— Dwight Jon Zimmerman

"GREAT" MOMENTS IN MARVEL HISTORY

Our "Goofy Disguises" feature a few months back drew such a great response, we just had to do it again! In the course of his back-breaking research for the SPIDER-MAN SAGA project which he assistant-edited, MARVEL AGE's own "Wacky" Mike Lackey came across a number of Spider-Man comics that featured Spidey and some of his amazing friends in some extremely unusual costumes.

Since Mike's back was broken from doing all that research, he passed along his discoveries to yours truly for the latest installment of "Great Moments in Marvel History." These "Goofy Disguises" pages are a real blast — they offer a chance to see your favorite heroes and villains caught with their pants down (as it were). You can be sure you'll be seeing lots more "Goofy Disguises" in the future!

AND SO SHORTLY.
AD OS, AMIGO! I'M SURE YOU CAN GET HOME FROM HERE EVEN TIS THAT YOU CALL HOME
I'LL MANAGE! THANKS FOR THE RIDE!
THINK NOTHING OF IT SHEH HEH! I HAVEN'T HAD THIS MUCH FUN SINCE I PULLED MY LAST APRIL FOOL'S GAG ON THE THING!

▲

Didn't we run a picture of Spider-Man wearing a paper bag over his head last time around (MARVEL AGE #108)? And why is Spidey wearing a Fantastic Four costume?

To answer those questions in order: yes, we did have Spidey in a paper bag last time around, but that was from a 1960s story. This time around, we have a scene from the 1980s — AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #257, to be exact, as writer Tom DeFalco and artist Ron Frenz pay tribute to that Lee/Romita classic from years gone by.

How did Spidey find himself in this particular predicament? Well, at the time this story took place, Spidey was wearing his black costume, which was actually an alien being trying to take over Spidey's body. Spidey went to the Fantastic Four for help. Reed Richards was able to separate the suit from Spidey, and trap it in a glass booth. But this left Spidey around in his underwear, so the FF were kind enough to loan Spidey a spare costume. In order to protect his identity, even from his friends in the FF, Spidey was given a paper bag to put over his head.

Some friends!

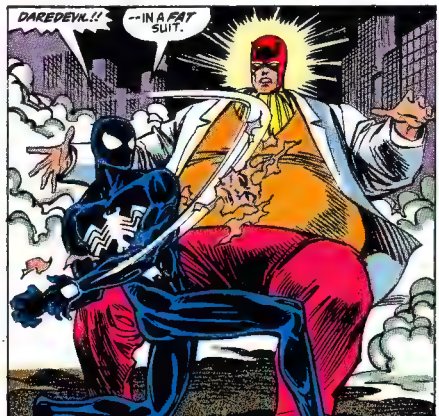
◀

Has our old pal Venom put on a few pounds? It certainly seems that way, as seen in this shot from SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #100. As you may have guessed, that's not the real Venom, Eddie Brock, underneath that costume. The alien costume, as noted above, was being held by the Fantastic Four for study when it managed to escape. Since the alien costume needs a human host to latch onto, it grabbed the first man who passed by, and took him over. That passerby happened to be the slightly-out-of-shape fella depicted here. Shortly after its escape, the alien costume ditched the fat guy and merged with Eddie Brock.

▶

Has the Kingpin gotten a shrunken head and started wearing a Daredevil mask? No, don't be fooled. It's not the Kingpin — it's actually Daredevil in a clever disguise. Sure, you can laugh now, but the disguise managed to fool Spidey for a while! (Okay, so there was a Kingpin mask that went with it, not shown here.) It seems Spidey was out to tackle the Kingpin to put an end to a gang war that was raging at the time. But Daredevil wanted to protect the Kingpin, feeling that Kingpin is the only one in New York who can control the New York underworld. So DD disguised himself as Kingpin in order to teach Spidey a lesson. Apparently, the lesson took, since Spidey decided not to go after the real Kingpin after all.

See that kids — sometimes all you need is a fat suit, and you, too, can influence the way other people think! That's all for now. We'll be back with more Great Moments in Marvel History next month! See you then!



— "Big Beard-Shavin' Barry Dutter

IT IS BALLOOOON!

PHOTOS BY: ELIOT R. BROWN, CAROL PLATT & ALYSON BRISTOL

The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is a time-honored tradition here in New York. Who wouldn't love getting up at 5:30 in the morning to stand out in the freezing cold rain with three million friendly Manhattanites? Hold on to your hats. . .and your wallets!

But there's something about the Holiday Season that makes people transcend their own personal boundaries, so that they may come together and enjoy high school marching bands, singing group *Boyz 2 Men* riding in a big paper mache turkey, and enormous balloons. Especially *Spider-Man Balloons!*

This year, the wonderful folks at Macy's allowed a whole gaggle of Marvel staffers to tote the wall-crawler's effigy down Fifth Avenue. Also on hand were Spider-Man, Wolverine (who wasn't allowed anywhere *near* the balloons, for obvious reasons), and the very spirit of America, Captain America!

— Mike Lackey

Above. Former MARVEL AGE'r "Slim" Jim Salicrup, writer-artist Barbara Slate, Marvel President Terry Stewart, an unidentified geek, and letterer-extraordinaire Ken Lopez led the parade as roller-skating clowns.

Below left: Spidey does whatever a balloon can, on the chilly Thursday morning. Below right Spidey starts things off, the number one float of 1991. Below below: Spidey at the end of the line, being folded up for next year.

WCW

World Championship Wrestling

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The Bodyslam! The Piledriver! The Tilt-A-Whirl Suplex! No, these aren't Club Med's most popular tropical drinks — they're the hottest, nastiest, most bone-crushing moves applied by the wrestlers of the WCW!

WCW is short for World Championship Wrestling, which airs four weekly TV programs, tours the country's arenas, and provides a half dozen Pay-Per-View spectaculars each year. Their roster of wrestling superstars includes such notables as WCW World Champion "The Total Package" Lex Luger, the ultra-popular Sting, the 7'7" Argentinean superstar El Gigante, the Steiner Brothers tag team, and the world's first rapping wrestler, the 400 pound P.N. News.

With professional wrestling's hot marketability right now, it was only natural that a wrestling comic book came along. We here at MARVEL AGE are all big fans of the world's greatest sport, as we're sure many of you readers are. But, for those few out there with nagging doubts thinking, "Gee, why would they wanna do a *wrestling* comic book?" Sit back for a minute, and think about your Marvel Universe history.

In 1963, a nerdy teenager named Peter Parker was bitten by a radioactive spider, and his life was changed forever. What was the first thing Peter did with his newfound power? Become a super hero? Nope. He became a *professional wrestler!*

In 1984, after the ultra-popular SECRET WARS, the ever-lovin' blue-eyed Thing came back from Battleworld, and what career opportunity did he seek out? He became a *professional wrestler!*

In 1990, the New Warriors' Marvel Boy made his return to the ring to fight the evil Gator Grant. Why? Because he was a *professional wrestler!*

This doesn't even include the MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS "imaginary" tale where the gray incredible Hulk wrestled *another* famous Hulk in Madison Square Garden. So there, all you nay sayers! Plenty of Marvel wrestling comics have already hit the stands, and many of them are probably in your collections!

In the new WCW comic book, each issue will feature uniquely different special events. You won't just see tired retreads of two big fat guys slugging it out. In fact, issue number one features an *Over the Top Rope Battle Royal*, where the top 15 WCW athletes simultaneously compete for a shot at the Champion Lex Luger's World Title. We'll also see Steel Cage matches — 3-on-1 Handicap matches — and plenty of bone-crunching wrestling in each and every issue.

The catch about this book will be that the WCW Champion, Lex Luger, is a *bad guy.* This is the complete opposite of conventional comics, where the bad guy is always trying to take over the world. . .Luger has already done it! All of the other wrestlers are constantly duking it out for a shot at Lex, who has vowed to cripple any serious threats to his Title Reign. Imagine a world where say, Doctor Doom tried to take over the world — *and he did!*

The series is written by MARVEL AGE'r Mike Lackey, and penciled by veteran Ron Wilson, who, coincidentally enough, also drew the Thing's wrestling adventures six years earlier (see our *Marvel Age of Comics* article last issue for more information on these adventures!). The notable Don Hudson provides the inks, and Mike Rockwitz is the referee. All of these guys are wrestling fans from way back, and have vowed to keep the book interesting for longtime comics readers, and plenty of fun for the uninitiated.

Rockwitz's office has worked hand in hand with the kind of people at Turner Home Entertainment and the WCW, to make sure every detail is right on the money. After all, we want to make sure that every piledriver is right on the money!

"Basically, Mike, Ron, and I sat down and talked about virtually every wrestling match we'd ever seen," said writer Mike Lackey. "All sorts of stuff, from guys being hit in the head with a coconut to snakes biting people in the ring. We drew all of these elements together for the comic. We wanted to combine all of the horrific elements of wrestling — the danger, the excitement, the pure adrenalin rush of it all. We also wanted to get as much free wrestling memorabilia as possible."

"It can be tricky staying up to date with what's really going on in the ring wars," Mike went on, "because it all moves so fast. For instance, if we wanted to feature a feud between say, the Diamond Studd and Z-Man, they may even be friends by the time the book comes out. So, we'll try to keep the wrestlers' adventures separate from what's going on in real life. It will reflect the current trends, but won't follow them to the letter."

"Our first issue is an *Over The Top Rope Battle Royal*, where all fifteen wrestlers are in the ring, trying to toss everybody else out. Ron, Mike, and I thought this would be a great way to introduce all the characters, and show them in action. It became a real trial by fire. Trying to give each wrestler his own moment in a 22 page story was tough. . . but fun."

The book is also a dream come true for penciler Ron Wilson, who many fans may remember as creator of the SUPER-BOXERS. "We wanted a realistic look to the action. I spent time looking at reference photos and video tapes of the different holds and acrobatics. You get tunnelvision when you work like this. It's a blast."

And that, we hope, sums up WCW in a nutshell. Action, drama, and two fisted wrestling action will make the WCW comic book one of the most surprising titles of 1992. Watch for its debut in February, and tell 'em Lex Luger sent you.

— Mike Gwar

epic-grams

WHAT WE'RE THANKFUL FOR

Thanksgiving has torn the seams on more than a few trousers and skirts this year, and left several hapless families of turkeys desperately filing reports at the department of missing fowls. Across America, and across all lines of culture, age and affiliation, people have given pause to their hectic holiday schedules to find happiness in that which they were thankful for, this past year. The bad that comes is too easy to recall, so it never hurts to make a list of what was, and is, good. And here at the editorial offices, as we do our internal retrospective, we think the past year has left the Epic imprint on quite a few projects we're happy with, and thankful for. And, that we hope you are too. They say the show isn't over until the fat lady sings. As far as we're concerned, the fat lady's still stuck in heavy traffic in the next county — we've just begun this little show.

WHAT WE'VE COLLECTED

The beautifully combined AKIRA Trade Paperback saw the first three issues of the AKIRA series bound seamlessly together, in a story format closer to the scope of the book's original printing in Japan. But this series has gone far beyond that first printing — with a white paper stock replacing the newsprint, and for the first time, all together in full color presentation that will make this book a collectible collection from Bangor, Maine to the shiny streets of Tokyo. This considerably larger bite (of just under two hundred pages) more clearly demonstrates the strengths of AKIRA. The scope of the story, the magnitude of the concepts, and the consistent quality of the artwork are emphasized, making it clear why this title is among Epic's most popular, and among the world's finest. Each volume collects together three issues of the original Epic run, with the original covers, additional articles, and some brand new color artwork by Katsuhiro Otomo each issue.

Joining the AKIRA trade paperback series as an unlikely companion is another long lived Epic staple, and one of the top books for entirely different reasons: Sergio Aragones' GROO THE WANDERER. The GROO Trade paperback series has collected the earliest adventures of Groo under the Epic imprint. Fulfilling every completist Groo collector's dream of fulfilling a complete set of Groo without having to mortgage the farm, THE GROO ADVENTURER busts onto the scene early in the year, later followed by THE GROO BAZAAR. We hope by the time the third book, THE GROO CARNIVAL, hits stores at the end of the year, fans will have figured out the secret message Mark and Sergio are spelling out in this open-ended collection. Each volume collects four of the hard to find early GROO's, with new art by Sergio "fastest cartoonist in the Americas" Aragones, and an insiders insight through the eyes of GROO co-conspirator, Mark Evanier.

WHAT WE'VE DONE

"Is that all," you ask? This just in: The fat lady's cab is experiencing heavy delays due to interference from outer space, and the deepest of dank in H-E double hockey sticks. Film at eleven. These aforementioned concepts were just some of the other Epic headliners that have carved a niche while undergoing some format changes this year.

THE ALIEN LEGION ASSEMBLY

This year the footsloggers and soldiers of fortune in Nomad Squadron got used to their new niche in the epic order, with their transformation in the pages of ALIEN LEGION from a bi-monthly comic to a squarebound bookshelf format monthly series of limited series. (Say that ten times fast!) The series shattering events depicted in the three issues of ON THE EDGE were followed up in '91 with two issue series TENANTS OF HELL. Illustrated by fan fave Larry Stroman and written by the famously infamous Chuck Dixon, those issues continued to redefine the changing place of Nomad Squadron in a new, more dangerous Legion. Look for more of these Alien Legion limited series in '92, written by Chuck and illustrated by a new all-star line-up that will have you in line at your local AL recruitment office — or in front of your local comic shop. Your choice, really. And, if you've missed any of the above, check the back issue section — these are the hot picks of 91 that probably won't last into the new year.

THE HELLRAISER HAPPENINGS

Another mover and shaker of the Epic line this past year has been CLIVE BARKER'S HELLRAISER, which has upped its frequency twice in the past year, from quarterly to bi-monthly, to coming out every six weeks for those fear aficionados for whom more of a good thing is never enough. In 1992, look for an increase in the companion Barker book, NIGHTBREED, as it escalates from bi-monthly with issue #15! Mix those liberally with the well-received Hellraiser specials such as the fearful BOOK OF THE DAMNED and the HELLRAISER POSTER BOOK, shake well and bake for all eternity. . .

Oh, while you're waiting, you might want to keep your eyes open for some of the all new, all exciting, and all dramatically different titles coming from Epic in the next year!

WHAT YOU'RE DOING

We're at the end of our list, but these series of trade paperbacks are only the beginning! This is the reader participation section of this column. As avid epicurians of the Epic explosion, you're probably familiar with some of the other epic projects of the past decade. Several of these and more will be celebrated throughout 1992, in the year of Epic's tenth anniversary — and we're looking for suggestions from you as to which classics you'd like to see collected in future trade paperbacks. From the obscure to the sublime, we'd like your suggestions from you as to which classics you'd like to see collected in future trade paperbacks and your hidden obsessions for the best of Epic Comics of the past ten years!

Send all ideas great and small, bright and beautiful here as fast as your hot hands allow to:

EPICGRAMS
c/o Epic Comics
387 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10016

WHAT WE'LL DO

Next time out, we'll thrill you with back-alley glimses of some of our own ideas to celebrate this sassy event. We'll cover some of the new material we're putting together even as you read this! We'll spark a brand new fuse in the Epic explosion, to start off the year with a bang, a toot, a whistle, and a dinosaur bellow — with a list of the names that will become the catch phrases for the cutting edge in the coming year. Be here, or we'll start without you. You can sing now, Ma'am.

HEMBECK

SWEET CHRISTMAS!

DO *YOU* KNOW *ME*? I'LL BET YOU *DON'T*--*ESPECIALLY* IF YOU JUST STARTED READING COMICS IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

THE NAME IS *CAGE*--*LUKE CAGE*, AND I, BROTHERS AND SISTERS, AM *PROUD* TO CLAIM THE DISTINCTION OF BEING THE *FIRST BLACK SUPERHERO* FROM THE STREETS OF AMERICA'S CITIES --*HARLEM*, TO BE PRECISE-- TO *STAR* IN MY OWN COMIC SERIES. THE FIRST ISSUE OF "*LUKE CAGE, HERO FOR HIRE*" WAS DATED JUNE, 1972. IF YOU HAPPEN TO BE KEEPING SCORE...

OH, I *KNOW* WHAT SOME OF YOU *HISTORY BUFFS* ARE THINKING--WHAT ABOUT *THE BLACK PANTHER*? TRUE, T'CHALLA WAS THE FIRST SUPERHERO OF COLOR, BUT THE BROTHER *WAS* AN AFRICAN KING, AND ANYWAY, HE DIDN'T GET HIS OWN *SOLO* SERIES UNTIL *MINE* PROVED *SUCCESSFUL*.

TAKING *NOTHING* AWAY FROM *HIS HIGHNESS*, THE *KING OF WAKANDA*, I *WAS* FIRST IN MANY IMPORTANT WAYS. FOR INSTANCE, I WAS THE FIRST *ANGRY* BLACK SUPERHERO.

WHY WAS I ANGRY? HEH, *YOU'D BE* ANGRY TOO IF YOU WERE *FRAMED* FOR A CRIME AND THEN PUT *BEHIND BARS* TO ROT AWAY. KINDA *RUINS* YOUR MOOD, MAN, I WAS *SO ANXIOUS* TO GET OUT OF THE STIR, I *VOLUNTEERED* TO GUINEA PIG FOR A REAL *RISKY* SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENT.

NOW, *THESE* DAYS, WHEN YOU HEAR THE CLAREMONT-BYRNE TEAM MENTIONED, YOU THINK *X-MEN* --*AND TRUE*, THEY'D JUST STARTED WORKING ON THE BOOK WHEN THEY GOT AHOLD OF *ME* --BUT PRIOR TO WRITING MARVEL HISTORY WITH THE MUTANTS, THEIR *FIRST* PET LOVE CONCERNED THE TITLE DEPICTING THE ADVENTURES OF *IRON FIST*, THE KUNG FU DUDE.

BAD NEWS FOR THE BOYS, THOUGH--MARVEL *CANCELLED* DANNY RAND'S COMIC (CAN YOU *BELIEVE IT*? MARVEL *DUMPING* A CLAREMONT-BYRNE BOOK? HEH, THAT WAS A *LOOOOONG* TIME AGO...), SO JUST *WHAT* WERE CHRIS AND JOHN LEFT TO DO?

I'LL *TELL* YOU WHAT --THEY BROUGHT THE *HOWLY* OVER TO *MY* BOOK, *LOCH, STOCK AND SUPPORTING COSTS*! WHAT A *CROWD*! THREE ISSUES--THAT'S *ALL* BYRNE AND CLAREMONT DID TOGETHER ON MY SERIES, BUT *BY* THEIR *LAST* ONE --NUMBER 50--THE LOGO READ "POWER MAN *AND IRON FIST*," AND THAT'S THE *WAY* IT WOULD READ RIGHT UP TO AND INCLUDING THE *LAST* ISSUE, NUMBER 125.

DON'T GET ME *WRONG*--DANNY WAS A TRULY *FINE* INDIVIDUAL, AND WHILE HE MAY *NOT* HAVE *BEEN* A *BROTHER*, HE WAS *LIKE* A BROTHER TO ME, *DIG*? ONE *IMMEDIATE* DIVIDEND OF OUR NEWFOUND *PARTNERSHIP* WAS *HIS HELP* IN GETTING MY NAME *CLEARED* FOR ANY AND ALL CRIMES *ATTRIBUTED* TO ME. THAT *ALONE* MADE HAVING NEW *BUSINESS CARDS* PRINTED UP WORTHWHILE.

DESPITE MY TOP *BILLING*, THINGS *CHANGED* AFTER FIST CAME ABOARD. IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE I BEGAN TO FEEL LIKE A *GUEST STAR* IN *MY* OWN BOOK. I WAS *IRON FIST'S SIDEKICK*--WE ALWAYS SEEMED TO BE HANGING OUT WITH *HIS* FRIENDS, FIGHTING *HIS* ENEMIES, DELVING INTO *HIS* PAST.

DON'T WANNA SOUND *CRUEL*, BUT THERE WAS A PART OF ME THAT WAS *RELIEVED* WHEN HE WAS KILLED IN MY --*OUR*-- LAST ISSUE. SURE, THE BOOK HAD BEEN *CANCELED*, BUT I FIGURED SINCE THIS WAS THE MARVEL UNIVERSE, I'D *TURN UP SOMEWHERE*! A LIMITED SERIES, A RUN IN *MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS*, MAYBE A MEMBERSHIP IN ONE GROUP OR ANOTHER--*SOMETHING*! (*ALONE*?)

huh. EVEN THOSE YOU WHO'VE *NEVER* HEARD OF CAGE KNOW WHAT HAPPENS *NEXT*: EXPERIMENT GOES HORRY, BUT INSTEAD OF FRYING YOURS TRULY, I COME OUTTA THE DEAL WITH *INCREDIBLE STRENGTH* AND *NEAR INVULNERABILITY*, AND AS A BONUS, IN ALL THE CONFUSION, I MANAGED TO ESCAPE FROM PRISON!!

YESSE, I *HAD* TO RUN -- I WAS UNDER THE *MISTAKEN* IMPRESSION THAT I'D *KILLED A GUARD* DURING THE MELEE. USING A VARIETY OF ALIASES UNTIL I SETTLED ON THE CAGE ONE, I *LAID LOW* UNTIL I GOT THE *BRIGHT IDEA* TO USE MY *NEWFOUND* ABILITIES TO SCARE UP SOME CASH. *THAT'S* WHEN I DREAMED UP THE *HERO FOR HIRE* GIG.

IT DIDN'T TAKE *THIS DUDE* LONG TO REALIZE I WASN'T GETTING THE *RESPECT* THE *OTHER* SUPER-POWERED INDIVIDUALS WERE, SO I FIGURED WHAT I NEEDED WAS A *SNAPPY NAME*. COMMENCING WITH MY 17th ISSUE, I BECAME KNOWN TO ONE AND ALL AS "LUKE CAGE, *POWER MAN*!"

DIDN'T HELP. DID -- NOT -- *HELP*. FOUND MYSELF *PERPETUALLY* FIGHTING *BOTTOM OF THE BARREL* SUPER CREEPS, *LOSERS* LIKE *MACE*, *LION FANG*, *BLACK MARIAH*, *CHEMISTRO*, *STILETTO*, *DISCUS*, *STEEPLEJACK*, AND, *HEAVEN HELP ME* -- *MR. FISH*!!

CLEARLY, THINGS WERE HARDLY GOING THE WAY I WOULD'VE *LIKED*, AND DESPITE A SHORT LIVED STINT *FILLING IN* FOR THE *THING* IN THE *FANTASTIC FOUR*, IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT I WAS JUST *MEANDERING* THROUGH MY OWN SERIES.

AND *THAT*, FOLKS, IS WHEN TWO YOUNG FELLOWS NAMED *CHRIS CLAREMONT* AND *JOHN BYRNE* CAME ALONG AND *CHANGED* MY LIFE -- AND MY COMIC BOOK -- *FOREVER*.

STEAD, *NOTHING*. AT WAS 1986 AND IS IS 1992 AND I VEN'T MADE *ONE* NGLE *APPEARENCE* NCE DANNY KICKED. RICHARDS IS ARVEL'S PERSONIFATION OF H. G. ELL'S INVISIBLE AN -- LOOKS LIKE BECAME THEIR. ERSION OF *RALPH* LSON'S INVISIBLE AN! (...ASK YOUR NGLISH TEACHER, KIDS.)

CONTRAST THAT TO THE EXPLOITS OF THAT *OTHER* BLACK SUPER-HERO DURING THE *SAME* TIME PERIOD, Y'KNOW, THE ONE HEMBECK'S ALWAYS GETTING ON FOR BEING *LAME* AND *OBSCURE*, *BROTHER VOODOO*? *THAT* BROTHER HAD SUBSTANTIAL MULTI ISSUE GUEST SHOTS WITH *DR. STRANGE* AND *MOON KNIGHT*, AS WELL AS HIS OWN STORY IN *MARVEL SUPER HEROES #1*.. OBSCURE? DUDE'S HAD MORE EXPOSURE THAN *ME*! LANE? WELL, HEMBECK'S GOT *THAT* ONE RIGHT -- SORRY, BRO.

BUT YOU KNOW WHAT'S *REALLY* MAKING ME *CRAZY*? IRON FIST'S RECENT *RETURN* TO THE MARVEL UNIVERSE! DANNY MADE IT BACK BEFORE I DID -- AND I SWEAR ON MY MOMMA, THE BOY WAS *DEAD*! D-E-A-D! *MAN*, I TELL YOU, WHEN I FIRST HEARD *THAT* NEWS I WAS STUNNED SPITLESS!

WELL, I SURELY COULDN'T HAVE TAKEN MUCH MORE OF THIS *NEGLECT* WHEN, LO AND BEHOLD, THE MARVEL FOLKS GAVE ME THE *GOOD NEWS*! I WAS COMING BACK *BIG TIME* IN '93 -- AND *WITHOUT* THE FIST! NOTHING PERSONAL, DANNY BOY -- I'M *GLAD* YOU'RE *ALIVE* -- BUT THIS POWER MAN WANTS TO TRY GOING *SOLO* AGAIN.

AND DO YOU KNOW *WHEN* THEN GAVE ME THIS GOOD NEWS? ABOUT A *MONTH AGO*. Uh huh. SOME *GIFT*. SURE HOPE YOU HAD WHAT I EXPERIENCED BACK THEN!

SWEET CHRISTMAS!

"Old heroes for hire never die; they return to fight another day. . ."

— ancient comic book industry proverb

February, 1992 marks that day as Luke Cage a.k.a. Hero for Hire, a.k.a. Power Man, hammers his way back into the front ranks of the Marvel Universe with the first issue of a

monthly offset comic elegantly entitled, CAGE.

CAGE is the long-awaited return of one of comicdom's most ground-breaking super heroes whose six year absence as a regular has not gone unnoticed by either the Marvel editorial staff or the ranks of fandom.

The splashy debut of LUKE CAGE, HERO FOR HIRE in June, 1972 was followed by an impressive publishing run in which the super heroic exploits of black ex-convict Luke Cage were chronicled. Over the years the title was changed to LUKE CAGE, POWERMAN and then POWER MAN and IRON FIST, in which Cage took on the latter as his crime-fighting partner. All-in-all, the three titles amassed an impressive run of 125 issues, the last released in September, 1986.

The character of Luke Cage was borne out of a time in the 70's during great expansion and experimentation at Marvel. Emerging from the creative crackle was an effort to create super hero characters (and villains, as well) that broke from tradition and expectation. Super heroes with unusual powers, looks, backgrounds and ethnicities began to appear with greater frequency. Cage quickly became the most popular of the black super characters.

By the way, Luke Cage's real name has never been revealed. It's a pseudonym that the character adapted at the very start of the series. Cage, a product of the New York City ghetto, had been framed and wrongly sent to prison. While there, he struck an agreement with a research physiologist who promised to do what he could to get Cage paroled in exchange for Luke's participation in an experiment to test the powers of a chemical agent to fight disease and aging.

A guard who had been Cage's nemesis throughout his prison stay takes control of the experiment and, hoping to kill Cage, pushes the experiment to the max. But rather than having its desired effect, Cage emerges with superhuman strength and steel-hard skin. He flees the island prison, but is assumed dead when guards find his bullet-ridden shirt worn during the escape.

Cage, as fugitive, began a new career, selling his strong-armed services as a crimefighter. He later teamed up with Danny Rand, the Iron Fist, and with his help was able to clear himself of the original charge which landed him in jail.

The original series featured plenty of bang 'em up action and a stable of notable talent behind the carnage. Among the contributors were the likes of Chris Claremont, Archie Goodwin, Len Wein, John Byrne, Steve Engelhart, Mike Zeck, Ron Wilson and Frank Springer.

With a history as rich as this it wasn't a difficult decision to dust off Cage and get him back into the mainstream again. After many months of "redevelopment," the honored task of writing chores was given to Marcus McLaurin whose proposal, according to CAGE editor Kelly Corvese "was the most original." Editor in chief Tom DeFalco gave the go-ahead, Dwayne Turner was selected as penciler and the series was an "all-systems go."

For Corvese and his creative duo, getting the chance to work with a character like Cage was like turning loose three kids in a candy store. The grittiness of the character appealed to all. "Cage has got an inbred nobility — he's wise, with a real street sense," McLaurin says. Turner, hot off the success of his four issue bookshelf Black Panther series, says it most poetically. "Cage is a good character. . .he can touch on everything and yet be touched himself."

McLaurin points out that the character was originally thought to be so unique back in 1972 that he was created to have his own series, rather than having to earn the honor by building a following in other titles. "He was believed to be that strong," he adds. The feeling is still apparent.

Pointing to the tremendous appeal of Cage, Turner notes, "Here's an angry, tough guy with a real attitude and a bad street background. . .very dynamic, very action-oriented."

It's precisely this type of characterization which Turner feels may have been the impetus to get CAGE off the ground. "I think the fact that other forms of media and entertainment have focused attention on these types of characters show that they're viable. . ."

What can we expect for the Cage of the 1990's? "The years have hardened him. He doesn't want a partner, he doesn't want people around," Corvese explains. "But despite his tendency towards isolation and withdrawal, he must come to grips with his obligations to serve. This is part of his fight, his conflict," Turner adds.

From out of this inner conflict a new Cage is emerging. Originally portrayed as an 'act now, think later' type, Cage will be "more of a thinker," according the McLaurin. "He'll learn that he can't run from his past and he will learn that he can change his attitudes."

As his journey is a learning experience for him, it will be one for the reader as well. "The character has been around for so long. . .so well liked, yet so little is known of him. His life before prison has always been a mystery. We're going to address that and we're going to get into family background as well — whatever is necessary and important to the storyline," McLaurin notes.

Heading to Chicago to make a fresh start of things as a hero for hire, Cage forms an alliance of sorts with the *Chicago Spectator*, a newspaper which will help him advertise his services in exchange for the exclusive rights to the stories that his exploits generate. The paper will serve as a clearinghouse for his activities — it will screen the answers to Cage's ads and assign him the cream of the crop — the most challenging and rewarding for both Luke and the paper.

Cage, however, learns that Chicago leaves a lot to be desired and he will eventually find himself to be a carefully manipulated pawn by influences which are at work to break him. The reasons for his enemies' aggressions are what gives the title its energy.

Look for appearances by some famil-

iar faces, like private investigator Dakota North and villains Tombstone and Nitro, who McLaurin sees as a recurring CAGE bad guy. A new villain, created especially for the series, and going by the name of Hardcore, also promises to cause Cage some sleepless nights.

McLaurin takes a very realistic attitude towards the action in CAGE. "Cage will be fighting villains that match his powers. . .they'll be believable. I see Cage, from the standpoint of power, as being in the league of a Punisher, not Thor," he notes. "Expect to see people get hurt, to see Cage get in trouble for his actions," he adds.

The choice of Chicago as the backdrop for the high-powered action was quite intentional. "This is a city with a history of crime, gang warfare and inner city turmoil," McLaurin says. Penciler Turner will be using lots of photo reference to capture the real flavor of the Windy City. McLaurin has been doing his research by reading Chicago newspapers and following what's been going on in that city. "Some of the story ideas were sparked by real news items," he claims.

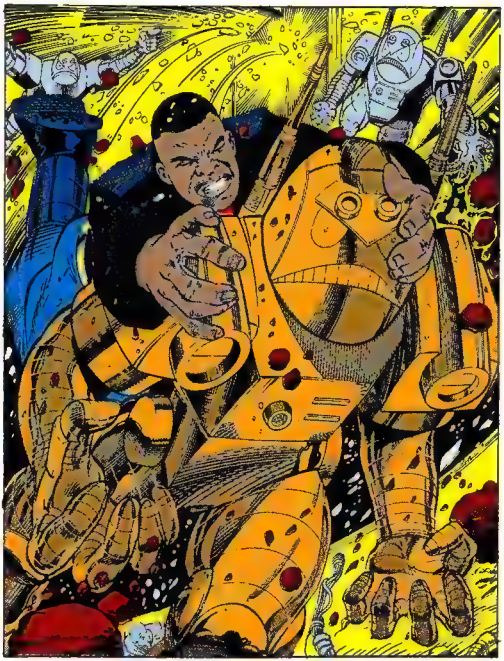
Both McLaurin and Turner are intent on avoiding stereotypes that occasionally plagued the original series. "I'm developing characters for the series who are black and not street level, characters that are positive role models for the kids," McLaurin says. "Stereotypes," Turner notes, "are not deserving of the space they're given. Even in real bad neighborhoods, you have families who all work, earn their own way. . .I'll put in that kind of portrayal."

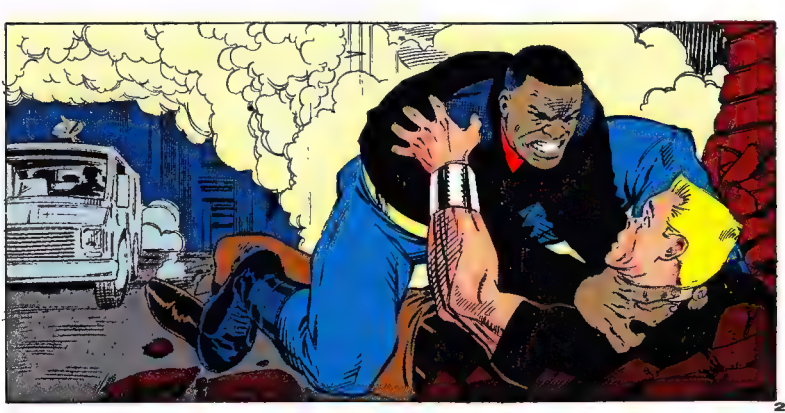
A couple of bonuses await the readers of the new Cage series. First, is the cover design for CAGE #1 which will feature an illustration of the character and the logo printed on clear acetate and laid over the background art, printed on offset comic cover stock. Sounds weird? Imagine a cel of animation and you have the basic idea. And for those of you into double doses of action, you'll be able to catch Cage in the pages of PUNISHER #60-62 as he guest stars in a certain Frank Castle's favorite mag.

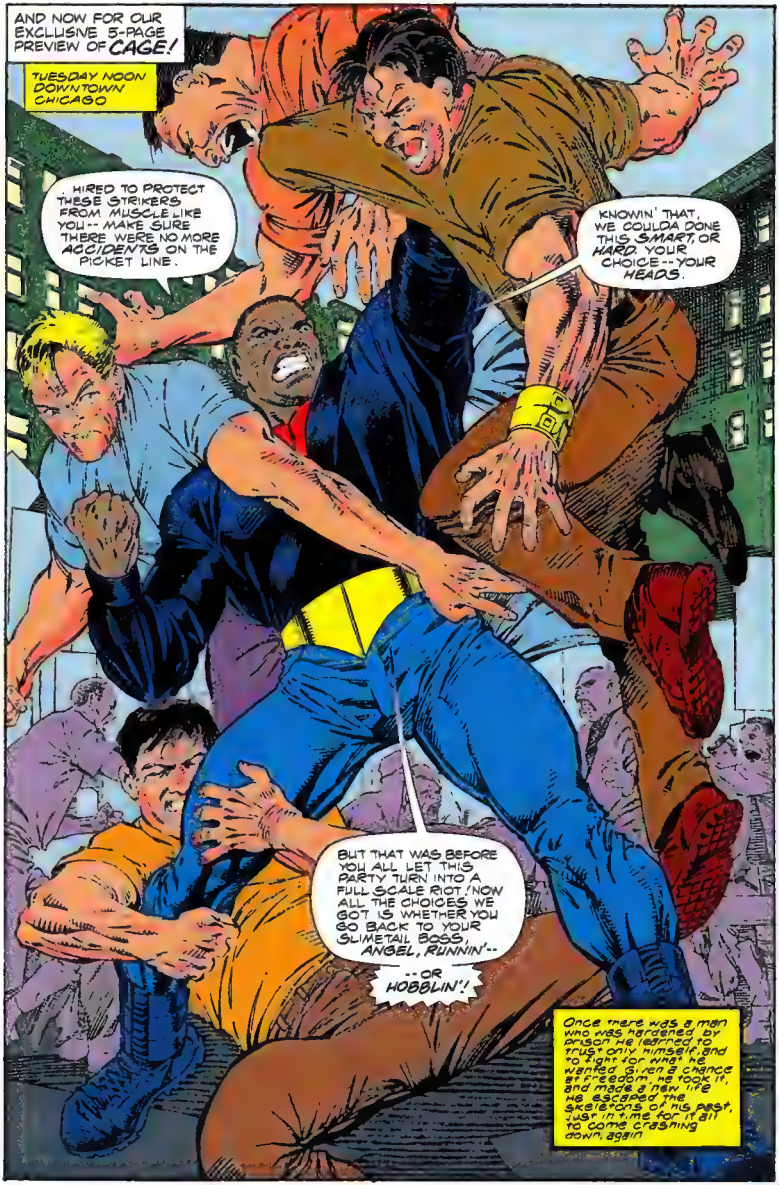
So there you have it — Luke Cage for the 90's. A loner hoping to find healing in his seclusion, but finding instead a city intent on preying upon his abilities and good character. New challenges and old memories.

Check it out.

— Nelson Yomtov

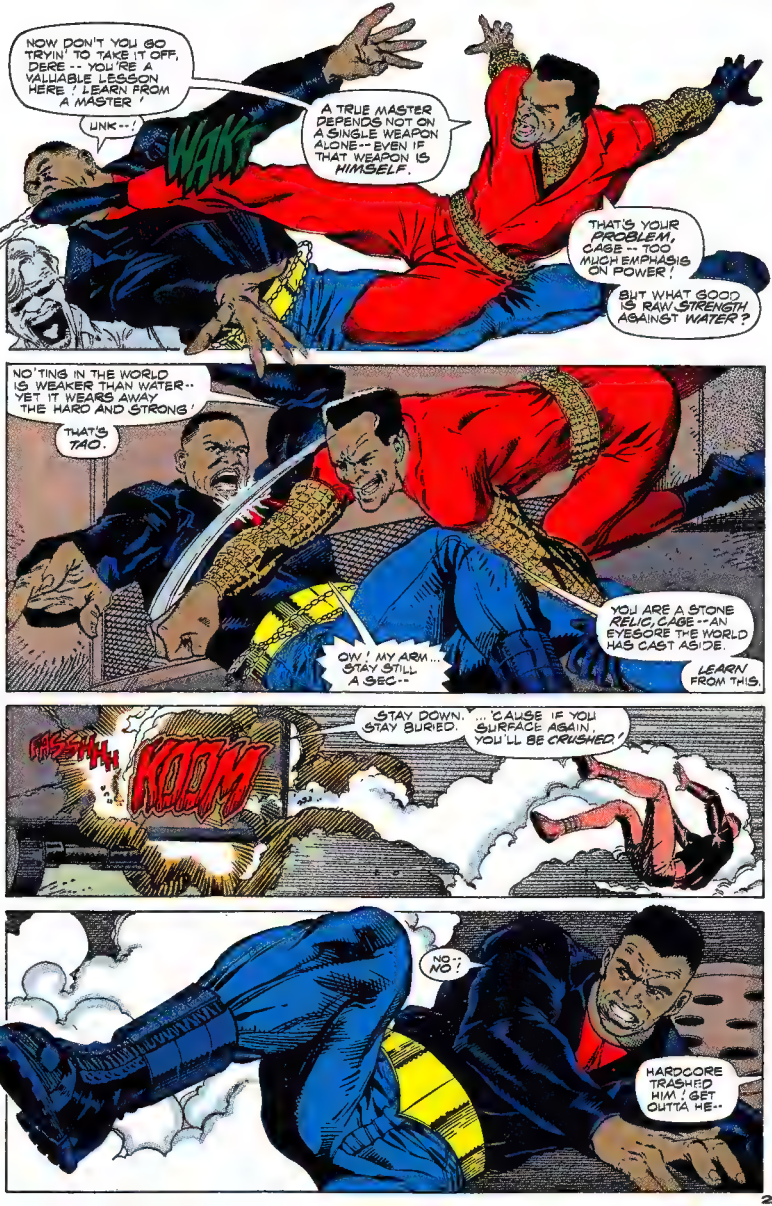




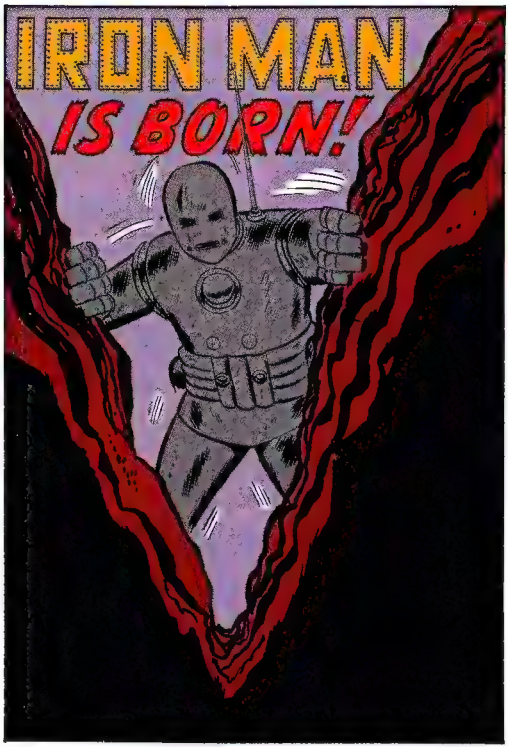

AND NOW FOR OUR EXCLUSIVE 5-PAGE PREVIEW OF CAGE!
TUESDAY NOON DOWNTOWN CHICAGO
HIRED TO PROTECT THESE STRIKERS FROM MUSCLE LIKE YOU -- MAKE SURE THERE WERE NO MORE ACCIDENTS ON THE PICKET LINE.
KNOWIN' THAT, WE COULDA DONE THIS SMART, OR HARD. YOUR CHOICE -- YOUR HEADS.
BUT THAT WAS BEFORE YOU ALL LET THIS PARTY TURN INTO A FULL SCALE RIOT. NOW ALL THE CHOICES WE GOT IS WHETHER YOU GO BACK TO YOUR SLIMETAIL BOSS, ANGEL, RUNNIN'--
-- OR HOBBLIN'!
Once there was a man who was hardened by what he learned to trust only himself, and to fight for what he wanted. Given a chance at freedom, he took it, and made a new life. He escaped the skeletons of his past, just in time for it all to come crashing down, again

AIN'T NO CHOICES FOR YOU PUNK-- KNOWUTUMSAYIN ?!
UHNN!
CHOOM CHOOM
-- MAYBE YOU BOYS AIN'T HEARDA ME IF YOU HAD, YOU KNOW I'M THE ORIGINAL MISTER BULLET-PROOF.
NO! HARD-CORE!
COURSE, THAT DON'T MEAN THE SUCKERS DON'T HURT. THEY DO.
ENOUGH TO REALLY TICK ME OFF!
HIS MOUTH BITTER, HIS SKIN ASSAULTED BY A MILLION RAZORS-- HE RECOGNIZES THE FEEL OF A TAZER. BUT NOT ITS FORM
T-TAZERIZED CHAINS?!
WHAAAAARRR!
ZZRRAAKZZ
THIS SOMEBODY'S IDEA OF A JOKE?!

WHAT'RE YOU, SOME KINDA SUPER HERO ?
SOME USED TO CALL ME THAT -- BUT I ALWAYS SAW IT DIFFERENT.
I'M HOT WITH MY FISTS, BOYEES, BUT I BUST HEADS FOR THE AMERICAN DREAM--
HARDCORE !
-- LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF BEAU COUP BUCKS !
NOT SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN LIKE DIS-- SO SOON... BUT
TAKE THE WHEEL, MAHTIN -- BUT DON'T SLOW ANY. I TINK I'LL OBLIGE OUR GUEST. TIME TO BEGIN MISTAH CAGES HIGHER EDUCATION.
AN' I AM AN EXCELLENT TEACHER
NOT THESE AGAIN ! WHAT'D YOU GET THESE THINGS SURPLUS OR SOMETHING ?!
SHHZZZ
CLINK
THAT TING IS CALLED A MANRIKISA, MISTAH CAGE. AN EASTERN FIGHTING WEAPON ADAPTED FOR MODERN WARFARE.
HOLEE -- IT'S ARMED !
I OUTFITTED SOME WITH INTERNAL TAZERS.
MAN, I TOLD YOU, HOMES IS NUTS !
. AND OTHERS WITH EVEN BETTER SURPRISES -- LIKE EXPLOSIVES !


NOW DON'T YOU GO TRYIN' TO TAKE IT OFF, DERE -- YOU'RE A VALUABLE LESSON HERE ! LEARN FROM A MASTER '
UNK--!
WAK!
A TRUE MASTER DEPENDS NOT ON A SINGLE WEAPON ALONE -- EVEN IF THAT WEAPON IS HIMSELF.
THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, CAGE -- TOO MUCH EMPHASIS ON POWER !
BUT WHAT GOOD IS RAW STRENGTH AGAINST WATER ?
NO'TING IN THE WORLD IS WEAKER THAN WATER -- YET IT WEARS AWAY THE HARD AND STRONG '
THAT'S TAO.
YOU ARE A STONE RELIC, CAGE -- AN EYESORE THE WORLD HAS CAST ASIDE.
LEARN FROM THIS.
OW ! MY ARM ... STAY STILL A SEC --
STAY DOWN. STAY BURIED. ... 'CAUSE IF YOU SURFACE AGAIN, YOU'LL BE CRUSHED.'
KRAKOOM
NO -- NO !
HARDCORE TRASHED HIM ! GET OUTTA HE--

NO!
THOSE STRIKERS HIRED ME TO STOP YOU SUCKERS--
--CONSIDER YOURSELF STOPPED!
DON'T NOBODY TRASH LUKE CAGE!
KREEC
REEOOO
NOBODY
'BOUT TIME. I DONE MY PART-TIME TO MAKE THE DONUTS...
LATER
--TO THANK YOU, POWER MAN, FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR THE UNION. I WANT TO SHAKE YOUR..
SAVE IT, MAN. S'WHAT I DO. S'WHAT YOU PAID ME FOR.
ANYBODY NEEDS ME, I GOT A OFFICE ON THE WEST SIDE -- AND THE NAME AIN'T POWER MAN-- IT'S...
LUCAS, MY BOY, HOW'VE YOU BEEN?
JERYN?
..HOGARTH, REPRESENTING THE CHICAGO SPECTATOR-- WITH A DEAL. A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL ARRANGE-MENT, I KNOW YOU WON'T REFUSE--
LET'S TALK BUSINESS.
-- FOR OLD TIMES SAKE, EH? PUT HER THERE, AND WE CAN DISCUSS THE DETAILS..
DON'T MAKE ME REPEAT MYSELF, HOGARTH. YOU GOT A JOB, MOSTLY LEGAL, AND GOOD MONEY, WE CAN TALK.
BUT THE HANDSHAKE STUFF IS PLAYED I'M A BUSINESSMAN.
DON'T BE A CHUMP! PICK UP CAGE #1 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!



Welcome back to *Reel Marvel*, the column which focuses on Marvel's rich history of television and movie adaptations, both past, present, and future.

This is the third of five *Reel Marvel* columns (#108-112), providing a comprehensive guide to the 1965 *Marvel Super-Heroes* shows, all adapted directly from the comics of the day. Despite their limited animation, the shows have a cult following and video collectors and traders covet new and better copies of the many episodes.

Grant Simmons and Robert Lawrence joined together in 1965 as Grantray-Lawrence to produce the animated adventures of the *Marvel Super-Heroes*. The show premiered as a Saturday show on September 2, 1966 in Los Angeles, but was picked up as a daily show on the 12th in Chicago and other stations. *Captain America* was Monday, the *Incredible Hulk* was Tuesday, *Iron Man* was Wednesday, *Mighty Thor* was Thursday (naturally), and *Sub-Mariner* was Friday.

The cartoons were very limited in their animation, produced through a process called Xerography. Artwork was transferred directly from Marvel comics onto the animation cells, and then given a slight movement by jiggling the cell or sliding it across a background. Despite the cheap process, the show became a major hit, and still remains in syndication today.

Each show had thirteen three-chapter episodes. Each chapter had its own title, and was six minutes long. The *Iron Man* stories were taken from *Tales of Suspense* stories drawn by Don Heck and Gene Colan.

Episode #1/#6301-6303 (from Tales of Suspense #54-55)
The Mandarin's Revenge (pt. I)
The Mandarin's Death Ray (pt. II)
No One Escapes the Mandarin (pt. III)

When military missiles begin disappearing, Iron Man allows himself to be captured by the Mandarin, as Tony Stark. The Man of Metal fights the Mandarin and his deadly beams, and stops a rogue missile from exploding. He eventually stops the Mandarin and saves the rest of the missiles.

Episode #2/#6304-6306 (from Tales of Suspense #56-60)
The Moleman Strikes (pt. I)
The Dragon of the Flames (pt. II)
Decision Under the Earth (pt. III)

The Mole Man steals a new Stark Industries earth-digging device to rule the surface world, and captures Iron Man in the process. Iron Man frees himself and retreats to the sunken Stark building with Pepper, only to face a fierce fire-breathing mechanical dragon! Iron Man defeats the monster and tricks the Mole Man into destroying the earth-digger and returning the sunken buildings to the surface!

Episode #3/#6307-6309 (from Tales of Suspense #61-62)
The Death of Tony Stark (pt. I)
The Hands of the Mandarin (pt. II)
The Origin of the Mandarin (pt. III)

The Mandarin tries to kill Tony Stark, and Happy Hogan and Pepper think he's succeeded. The very-much-alive Iron Man investigates and is caught in several deathtraps before facing the terrifying Wheel of Death. The Mandarin tells Iron Man his origin, then battles him. The Avenger escapes. Winning the battle, Tony returns to his relieved friends.

Episode #4/#6310-6312 (from Tales of Suspense #69-71)
If I Die, Let it be with Honor (pt. I)
Fight On! For a World is Watching (pt. II)
What Price Victory (pt. III)

A problem in his circuitry could kill Iron Man, but when the new Titanium Man

challenges him, he must accept. After a furious melee, Iron Man faces death if Happy doesn't bring him a needed component immediately. Happy is seemingly mortally wounded, but saves Iron Man's life, before pulling through himself.

Episode #5/#6313-6315 (from Tales of Suspense #52-53)
The Crimson Dynamo (pt. I)
The Crimson Dynamo Strikes Again (pt. II)
Captured (pt. III)

The Crimson Dynamo battles Iron Man, who is forced to use his old bulky armor due to malfunctions. When the Dynamo defects, the Black Widow is called in to kill Iron Man, Tony Stark, and the Crimson Dynamo. When Black Widow's partner dons the Dynamo armor, Iron Man is overtaken. Eventually Venko (the original Crimson Dynamo) sacrifices his life so that Iron Man can defeat his evil counterpart.

Episode #6/#6316-6318 (from Tales of Suspense #45)
Double Disaster (pt. I))
Enter Happy Hogan (pt. II)
Of Ice and Men (pt. III)

Tony Stark finds that Prof. Shipanka, a trusted employee, is stealing his secrets. After firing him, Tony loses control in a race car when his heart gives out! Happy Hogan rescues Tony from the crash and becomes his new chauffeur, even as Shipanka vows vengeance on Iron Man and Stark as a frozen ice-man named Jack Frost. Iron Man heats him up before he can do more damage.

Episode #7/#6319-6321 (from Tales of Suspense #57)
Enter Hawkeye (pt. I)
So Spins the Web (pt. II)
Triple Jeopardy (pt. III)

Hawkeye decides to become a superhero after watching Iron Man, but he falls prey to the Black Widow's powers. Hawkeye and the Widow fight Iron Man, then capture Happy and Pepper. Iron Man saves them, but fails to stop the fleeing villains. . .this time.

Episode #8/#6322-6324 (from Tales of Suspense #77)
Ultimo (pt. I)
Ultimo (pt. II)
Crescendo (pt. III)

Tony Stark is captured by the Mandarin, who throws his suit-of-armor into the moat as the giant Ultimo rises from a volcano (got all that?). Stark must stop the Mandarin and Ultimo and get back to a congressional committee hearing, or all Stark Industry's government contracts will be canceled! Needless to say, Iron Man saves the day.

Episode #9/#6325-6327 (from Tales of Suspense #67-68)
The Dream Master (pt. I)
If A Man Be Mad (pt. II)
Duel In Space (pt. III)

Count Nefaria makes Iron Man believe he is battling the Unicorn and Crimson Dynamo, endangering him in his nightmares. In Ireland, Iron Man defeats the Count and rescues Happy Hogan, only to find more hallucinations back home. When aliens land, Iron Man must defeat them, and stop Nefaria once and for all.

NO MATTER HOW POWERFUL YOU ARE, IRON MAN, YOU'RE HELPLESS WITHOUT YOUR LIFE-GIVING ELECTRICITY! THE SAME ELECTRICITY WHICH I AM SHUTTING OFF--NOW!

Episode #10/#6328-6330 (from Tales of Suspense #73)
The Black Knight's Gambit (pt. I)
The Menace of the Monster (pt. II)
My Life For Yours (pt. III)

The Black Knight kidnaps Happy from his hospital room, and Iron Man must track him to a mysterious castle. There, almost defeated by the Black Knight, Iron Man loses power and almost comes to his end. Things get worse when an untested device turns Happy into a monster! Can Iron Man save his own life and his friend's?

Episode #11/#6331-6333 (from Tales of Suspense #80-83)
Beauty and the Armor (pt. I)
Peril In Space (pt. II)
As a City Watches (pt. III)

The Mad Thinker and his Android kidnap Tony Stark, but he changes to Iron Man and defeats them, finding out that the evil Countess is behind their actions. When she steals his attaché case and armor, Iron Man must battle her and her Solendids in space. Returning to Earth, Iron Man finds that he and the Countess must team up to defeat the Premiere's newly redesigned Titanium Man, in an awesome battle over the Nation's capital!

Episode #12/#6334-6336 (from Tales of Suspense #84)
The Other Iron Man (pt. I)
Death Duel for the Life of Happy Hogan! (pt. II)
Into the Jaws of Death (pt. III)

Tony Stark collapses and Happy Hogan takes on the garb of Iron Man, only to be captured by the Mandarin! Tony builds a new suit of armor and streaks to Happy's aid, fighting the Mandarin and stopping his plans for a global war!

Episode #13/#6337-6339 (from Tales of Suspense #58)
Cliffs of Doom (pt. I)
The False Captain America (pt. II)
The Unmasking (pt. III)

The Chameleon and Kraven the Hunter want a new laser gun designed by Tony Stark, and they battle Iron Man to get it. When the Chameleon convinces Iron Man that he's Captain America and the real Cap is an impostor, the two heroes fight. Eventually they realize their mistakes and overthrow the Chameleon and Kraven.

Iron Man went on to appear in other *Marvel Super-Heroes* cartoons, most notably in the *Captain America, Hulk* and *Thor* stories, with the Avengers. *Iron Man* fans wishing to view the shows can find episodes *#4* and *#5* on the *Iron Man* tape of Best Video's new *Marvel Comics* line, available at your local video or department stores. Episode *#3* is on volume *#9* of the 24-volume *Marvel Comics Library* set released by Prism Video five years ago. Although the set is out of print, many retail stores still stock them.

Next month, we continue our guide to the *Marvel Super-Heroes* with all the episodes of the *Mighty Thor.* Follow me from the Rainbow Bridge of Asgard where the booming heavens roar, in our search for the mighty God of Thunder, here at *Reel Marvel!*

1985 CONCLUSION

THE MARVEL® AGE OF COMICS

1985 CONCLUSION

"How Long Will a Man Lie in the Earth Ere He Rot?"

Yep, that John Byrne knows how to catch your attention with a snappy story title. And Byrne's ALPHA FLIGHT was filled with troubling questions in 1985. Could novice Elizabeth Twoyoungmen defend Canada against the great beasts? Would Sasquatch and Aurora survive the menace of Gilded Lily, and would their romance survive as well? Was Guardian truly alive, or was his "survival" only the machination of Gamma Flight? Was villainess Pink Pearl really named after an eraser? And who would replace Byrne as Alpha's scripter? The last was easy — Bill Mantlo, who wrapped up the Alphans' year by pitting them against no less a foe than the Incredible Hulk!

The Hulk's cousin, Jennifer (She-Hulk) Walters, acquired a new prominence in 1985 — but as the possible centerfold for a porno mag, it wasn't the kind of attention she wanted! As Ben Grimm elected not to return to the FANTASTIC FOUR, Jen assisted the team against Mephisto and Malice. But the FF's worst threat of the year came from the Hate-Monger and Psycho-Man, who twisted Sue Richards' psyche into the malevolent entity known as Malice. Malice nearly killed her team and family, and only slightly less lethal was Sue's vengeance on the Psycho-Man when she recovered her senses. This John Byrne saga put an end to the Invisible Girl; from now on, Sue was clearly the Invisible *Woman*. After all of this, a battle with Skrulls in the FF ANNUAL seemed like a walk in the park.

The Skrulls also provided the villainy for the AVENGERS ANNUAL, while in the regular AVENGERS book, 1985 was an especially eventful year. Under the pen of Roger Stern, the Vision attempted to take over the world through his expanded computer consciousness, while the Savage Land was apparently destroyed by Terminus. Doc Samson, the Black Knight, Ka-Zar, and Firelord shared in the fun, and history was made as Prince Namor finally joined the team. And an expedition into space, tracking the evil of Nebula, posed challenges for Captain Marvel that would soon involve the whole team.

Another Atlantean found the limelight in 1985, as Andromeda joined the DEFENDERS in Marvel's most off-the-wall super-team book. With guest stars such as Red Wolf and Mantis, Warren Worthington's New Mexico-based team faced all manner of weirdness: hermaphroditic aliens, the incendiary Hotspur, and the corruption of Moon Dragon!

DEFENDERS scribe Peter Gillis also took the MICRONAUTS where no licensed properties had gone before, as they explored the deepest mysteries of the Microverse. But would Commander Rann and his company die of radiation poisoning before they uncovered the secrets of the Makers and the Spiral Path? Spotlights deepening the stories of Bug, Acroyear, Devil and Marionette contrasted with the enigmas surrounding their new companions, Solitaire and Scion.

TRANSFORMERS, another licensed property, came into its own in 1985, making the leap from limited series to an ongoing monthly. The Autobats battled the Decepticons with help from Spider-Man, as scripted by Jim Salicrup, in his free time from editing MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE!

Hasbro's G.I. JOE continued its remarkable surge in popularity, requiring second printings and a G.I. JOE YEARBOOK to keep up with demand. New members such as Footloose and Lady Jaye joined the team, while old favorite Snake Eyes found himself surrounded by the forces of Destro. Cobra and the twin brothers, Tomax and Xamot, supplied further opportunities for the Joes to demonstrate their real American heroism.

And the STAR WARS team of freedom fighters celebrated yet another year of monthly adventures, as writer Jo Duffy and artist Jan Duursema expanded the world according to George Lucas. War was threatened between the Ewoks and the Lahsbees, while the villain Knife found himself outnumbered by a world of Wookiees. While Han and Leia faced problems in their own relationship, the maleficent Nagai made nasty work for Luke, Dani the Zeltron, and the water-worlder Kiro, whose days looked severely numbered.

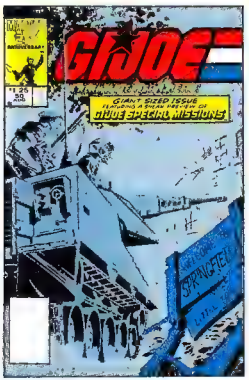
Also not long for this world were POWER MAN and IRON FIST, whose book slowed to bi-monthly status. Exploits with Captain Hero, Project Pegasus, and Control 7 preceded a return to K'un-lun for the heroes for hire. But the new kids on the block, POWER PACK, grew and grew in popularity, flanked by a veritable phalanx of guest stars: Spider-Man, Cloak and Dagger, Marrina, and the Warriors Three. Alex, Julie, Jack and Katie befriended the misunderstood monsters of Professor Gilbert, attended baseball at Shea Stadium, survived the schemes of the vindictive Carmody, and consoled Annalee over the loss of her Morlock children.

The Morlocks were also on the minds of the X-MEN in 1985; but then, what wasn't on their minds? Rachel and Amara invaded the Hellfire Club; Kulan Gath nearly returned New York City to the Hyborian Age; and Thunderbird returned to take vengeance for the death of his brother. To make matters worse. Professor X was brutally mugged, and in his illness, he called to his old enemy Magneto and asked him to maintain the dream of peace between humans and mutants. Xavier would have to wait, though, while

MARVEL® COMICS PRICE GUIDE

How Long Will a Comic Book Lie in a Mylar Snug Ere It Rots? The answer can be found by perusing any of these back issues available at your local comics specialty shop! Our source for these back issue prices is, of course, THE OFFICIAL OVERSTREET COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE #20. But remember, this is only a guide. Actual prices may vary, and should be lower for copies in fair or poor condition.

	CONDITION Good	Fine	Mint
■ **ALPHA FLIGHT**			
18-28	.25	.75	1.50
29		.65	1.30
■ **AVENGERS**			
251-262		.60	1.20
ANNUAL 14	.25	.75	1.50
■ **DEFENDERS**			
139-150		.50	1.00
■ **FANTASTIC FOUR**			
274-285	.35	1.05	2.10
ANNUAL 19	.40	1.15	2.30
■ **G.I. JOE**			
31-35	.50	1.55	3.10
36-40	.40	1.25	2.50
41-42	.30	.955	1.90
34, 35, 36, 37 2nd printing)		.45	.90
YEARBOOK 2	.60	1.80	3.60
■ **MICRONAUTS: THE NEW VOYAGES**			
4-15		.35	.70
■ **NEW MUTANTS**			
23-30	.40	1.25	2.50
31-33	.35	1.00	2.00
SPECIAL 1	1.00	3.00	6.00
■ **POWER MAN AND IRON FIST**			
113-120		.40	.80
■ **POWER PACK**			
6-8 (Cloak & Dagger)	.35	1.00	2.00
9-17	.25	.75	1.50
■ **STAR WARS**			
91-102		.50	1.00
■ **TRANSFORMERS**			
3	.35	1.00	2.00
4-10	.25	.75	1.50
11		.50	1.00
■ **UNCANNY X-MEN**			
189-192, 194-199	.40	1.25	2.50
193 (double-size; 100th appearance)	.70	2.00	4.00
200 (double-size; Magneto's trial)	.85	2.50	5.00
ANNUAL (ga New Mutants; ArtAdams	1.50	4.50	9.00



Magneto finally stood trial at the World Court in Paris! And still more crises: Arcade asked for the X-Men's help against Dr. Doom, Storm and Forge reached a new understanding, the mutant-hunter Nimrod premiered on the scene, and Spiral posed an enigmatic threat to Phoenix! What a year!

But wait, there's more: in THE NEW MUTANTS, Chris Claremont and controversial penciler Bill Sienkiewicz put the junior team through equally gripping shockers! Sunspot and Wolfsbane struggled to survive the unwanted powers of Cloak and Dagger. Legion, Charles Xavier's son, threatened the team in each of his super-powered multiple personalities. Magma and Sunspot became warriors in the Mutant Theatre, only to be shocked at the identity of the obese, craven leader of the Gladiators: none other than Karma! Karma was the possessed slave of Amahl Farouk, whose vision of Storm and the New Mutants as decadent killers in Cairo became dangerously close to reality! And finally, the NEW MUTANTS SPECIAL took the X-kids to Asgard, in a truly epic exploit which set up the coming X-MEN/ALPHA FLIGHT miniseries!

THE MARVEL® AGE OF COMICS CONCLUSION

1985 PART V

1985 PART V

With this issue, one of the longest-running columns in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE takes its leave. Our year-by-year history of Marvel Comics has nearly reached the present, and any faithful reader of MARVEL AGE knows of all the developments in the House of Ideas lately! Next month, a new column will take special looks at individual creators, stories, and sagas from the wide and varied history of Marvel — stories that haven't yet been reprinted in the MARVEL MASTERWORKS series, but that are still remembered fondly and faithfully.

We'll draw the title of this new column from one of the premiere reprint collections that Marvel introduced in the late 1960s: MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS. The special box detailing back issue prices will remain in place, as we look back at unique tales that, for one reason or another, retain a special interest to fans and collectors today. If there are any old stories that you can't find in back issue stories and that you'd like to see profiled in the new MCIC column, write and let us know! In the meantime, having covered twenty-four years of Marvel history in these pages: 'Nuff Said!

—Brian Nelson

GHOST WRITER

Send your letters to: MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, c/o Marvel Comics Group, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016.

Attention correspondents: All letters to be considered for publication must include your complete name and address, though we will gladly withhold that info on request!

Ooooh, pretty spooky letter column title, eh, kids? This month's vengeance-seeking title comes to us from Mark Howard of Silver Lake, IN. Thanks, Mark! Now if we could just manage to put out that fire in our hair. . .

While we're busy smothering the flames, though, we ought to take a sec to remind everyone else out there that we still need a brand spanking new title for this column each and every month. So if you've got a stunningly swanky idea for a title, send it on in! If we use it, we'll even thank you right here in front of everybody! And hey, that sure beats having to relive your past sins in the glaring light of a fearsome penance stare, doesn't it?

Well? DOESN'T IT?

Dear Marvel,

I initiated my accumulation of the quite uncanny comic book known exclusively as THE X-MEN with issue #260, which showed just how thoroughly magnanimous you are capable of being. (Hey! Stan Lee's not the only one who can use strange words.)

I enjoy reading THE X-MEN a great deal. Someday, I hope to be a writer, and with this comic book, Marvel has influenced me in many ways. Contrary to popular opinion, comic books can actually produce a few intelligent thoughts. When you remove the "bad guy/good guy" cliché, comic books can really make you think. When you truly look at the writers, artists, and the countless others who make THE UNCANNY X-MEN possible, you realize that they really are trying to tell a story. Instead of writing fiction or a science-fiction novel, Chris Claremont has simply chosen a different path that has the same impact on the reader.

Now I would like to ask a few questions:

1) How can I find out about Professor X's early years and the beginnings of the X-Men?

2) What is the difference between the Uncanny X-Men and the new X-Men?

3) Will the members of Excalibur finally discover that the X-Men are alive?

Well, that's all I have to say. So until the Shadow King sings "Put on a Happy Face," Make Mine Marvel!

Fred Coopersmith
143 Earl St.
Westbury, NY 11590

Well, Fred, your letter may not have been all that spooky — you didn't even mention any fire-headed spirits of vengeance — but you asked some pretty neat questions nonetheless. So let's get down to 'em:

1) There are actually a couple of ways you can find out what you want to know, depending on the sort of information you're looking for. You can find brief but detailed summaries of all of the backgrounds of all of the folks you've asked about in THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE. But if you want the whole story in four-color form, you might want to check out our series of MARVEL MASTERWORKS volumes; Volumes 3 and 7 collect the early adventures of the original X-Men (and each contains pieces of the story of

Professor X's past), while Volumes 11 and 12 are devoted to Wolverine, Storm, and the rest of the newer breed. See? There's something for everybody. So who says you can't please all of the people all of the time?

2) The difference between the X-Men and the Uncanny X-Men? Oh, about fifty cents. Ha ha ha ha ha!

3) Yup! In fact, they already have, as shown in EXCALIBUR #41!

Whew! Well, that should cover everything. Any other questions. . .?

Dear MARVEL AGE,

I have a few questions and suggestions for you. First, the questions:

1) Have you ever noticed that the Green Goblin and Hobgoblin have the same air sled? Why is this?

2) Where is Venom? I have not seen him for a while. Bring him back!

And now for my suggestion. I think you should bring back some classic enemies to the new SPIDER-MAN series — for example, the Vulture, Mysterio, Electro, and even the Green Goblin.

Well, until Captain America and the X-Men join forces to battle the Beetle, Make Mine Marvel!

Jay Evans
424 W. 110 St.
New York, NY 10025

Ah, questions about goblins! *Now* we're getting spooky!

The reason for the similarities between the Green Goblin and Hobgoblin is quite simple, Jay. You see, when the Hobgoblin first embarked upon his criminal career, he stole his equipment from the hideout of the original (and now deceased) Green Goblin, and that's the same equipment that the present Goblin uses to this day. In fact, Hobgoblin even stole the Goblin's costume, although he dyed it and made some alterations (which probably saved him from a nasty copyright infringement suit), although Hobby later got himself transformed into an actual goblin, at which point the similarity lessened considerably.

As for your request for more of the villainous Venom, well, no sooner said than done! Hope you caught THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #347, which featured the riotous return of Venom, the only criminal whose best friend is his costume. And you'll want to be on the lookout for a new Venom storyline in AMAZING #361-363!

Finally, we'll pass along your suggestions to the folks who take care of SPIDER-MAN. In the meantime, though, we hope you're aware that all of the folks on your list have appeared in recent issues of the other Spider-titles. The Vulture, Mysterio, and Electro all teamed up with Doctor Octopus, Hobgoblin, and the Sandman in the recent "Return of the Sinister Six" storyline. And the Green Goblin has been playing a prominent role in the last few issues of THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN. 'No wonder ol' Spidey doesn't get to spend a whole lot of time at home with Mary Jane, eh?

Uh oh. Even answering all of those questions hasn't gotten us over our shakiness about the spooky title of our column. But never fear; we haven't turned yellow. It's just our background that has!

Yessiree, you guessed it — it's time for our LETTER OF THE MONTH! As always, we have embarked on an epic quest through our mountains of mail to find a letter that we think will be of particular interest to Marvel Zombies far and wide. And once again, we have celebrated our quest by placing that missive against a spiffy yellow background. . .and who can blame us?

This time around, our Letter of the Month deals with a Marvel character who's just as close to her readers in real life as in comics. . .

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I would just like to tell you about my visit to the Golden Apple comic book store in Los Angeles, CA on June 24. I went there for a special reason: to see and meet America's hottest singing super heroine, Nightcat (a.k.a. Jackie Tavarez) in person.

I loved her premiere issue and therefore bought another copy for her to autograph. I didn't have the CD of her album, but luckily, there was a CD store next door. She autographed the CD cover insert for me, and she didn't forget my name either!

Nightcat was exciting to be with and fun to talk to. I thought she would have her hands full with the NBC News team interviewing her, because later she would appear on the 5:00 news, but she is a kind and understanding person who took time out to meet me and her other fans who came to support her. To top off the day, I had my photo taken with her. It was the closest I've ever been to a beautiful super heroine/singer/celebrity and it is an experience I'll always remember.

There is one question/favor I'd like to ask you fellow Marvelites. Does Nightcat have a fan club or correspondence address so that a dedicated fan like myself can write to her to keep up with her singing career and various other projects? In the excitement of this special day, I didn't ask her. Can you help me? Also, Nightcat, if you happen to read this, I think your music is great and your voice is as beautiful as you.

Always Make Mine Marvel!

Ronald E. Munor
89 N. San Marino Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91107-3534

Y'know, Ronald, we may be completely off base here, but we get the feeling that you kinda like Nightcat and her music. And we bet you're not the only one either, so we checked in with the folks here at Marvel who were responsible for her comic book debut to see how the legion of Nightcat enthusiasts could get in touch with her. Unfortunately, they didn't know of any fan clubs at present. But don't despair! Everyone reading this can still strike a blow for music appreciation and write to Nightcat by sending mail right here to the House of Ideas. Simply address your correspondence to:

Jackie Tavarez,
c/o NIGHTCAT
Marvel Comics Group
387 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10016

We'll do our best to make sure it gets forwarded to the appropriate place. But for those of you with different musical tastes, who'd rather write to Adrian Czelinski and the Polka Kings, well, we're afraid you're on your own.

ANSWERS TO MARVEL® TRIVIA QUIZ

1. **A**	5. **C**	9. **B**
2. **B**	6. **B**	10. **B**
3. **B**	7. **D**	11. **B**
4 **A**	8. **B**	12. **B**

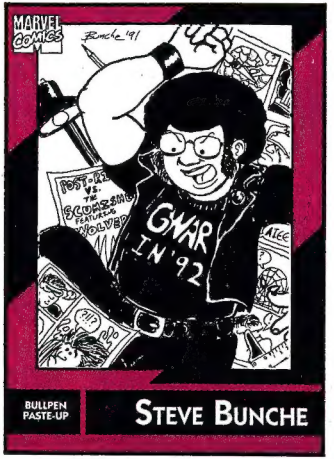
MORE ASSISTANT EDITOR CARDS!

By now you should know the full scoop on the Marvel Editors Trading Cards, and how we here at MARVEL AGE are now producing cards for our Assistant Editors and Bullpenners. Well, here is yet another batch, made exclusively for MARVEL AGE, and unavailable anywhere else — even the black market!

You won't want to miss MARVEL AGE #111, folks. A few issues back we did an exclusive profile on John Romita Jr. Well, now we're doing an exclusive profile on John Romita Sr., celebrating his accomplishments in the world of comics. We'll show art from every period of his illustrious career, and speak with the man himself!

Until next time —

—Mike Lackey



THE MARVEL® CHECKLIST

MARVEL COMING ATTRACTIONS

Hi, gang! We've got a new, alphabetical format we're experimenting with this month! Hope it doesn't throw you off too much! As usual, we're offering all the vital statistics on each Marvel comic!

- ☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #107 $1.75
  Lobdell, Morgan, Ivy
  Guest-starring X-Factor!
- ☐ AVENGERS #346 $1.25
  Harras, Epting, Palmer
  Part 12 of Galactic Storm!
- ☐ AVENGERS WEST COAST #81 $1.25
  Thomas/Ross/Dzon
  Part 9 of Galactic Storm!
- ☐ BARBIE #16 $1.25
  Slate, Rausch, Mushynksy
- ☐ BILL & TED'S EXCELLENT COMIC BOOK $1.25
  Dorkin, Severin
- ☐ CAGE #1 $1.50
  McLaurin, Turner, Ivy
  He's a Big Gun!
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #399 $1.25
  Gruenwald, Levins, Bulandi
  Part 8 of Galactic Storm!
- ☐ CAPTAIN PLANET #7 $1.25
  Furman, Baskerville
- ☐ CONAN #255 $1.25
  Thomas, Docherty, Chan
  The Purple Plague strikes!
- ☐ CONAN SAGA #61 $2.25
  Thomas, Buscema, DeZuniga
- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #196 $2.25
  Thomas, Buscema, Chan
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #303 $1.25
  Chichester, Weeks, Williamson
  Who will be the new Kingpin?
- ☐ DARKHAWK #14 $1.25
  Fingeroth, Manley, Villagran
- ☐ DEATHLOK #10 $1.75
  Wright, Cowan, Manley
  Guest-starring Ghost Rider!
- ☐ DEATH'S HEAD II $1.75
  Abnett, Sharp, Lanning
  He's a Big Gun!
- ☐ DEFENDERS OF DYNATRON CITY #3 $1.25
  Purcell, Cirocco, McKenna
- ☐ DOCTOR WHO #183 $4.50
  Special Photo-Cover!
- ☐ DR. STRANGE #40 $1.75
  Thomas, Isherwood
  Fear Lords Epic continues!
- ☐ EXCALIBUR #49 $1.75
  Davis, Farmer
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #363 $1.25
  DeFalco, Ryan, Bulandi
  Search for Sue continues —
- ☐ GHOST RIDER #24 $1.75
  Mackie, Tex
  Final conflict with Deathwatch!
- ☐ G.I. JOE #123 $1.25
  Hama, Wildman, Emberlin
  Introducing the Eco-Warriors!
- ☐ GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY TBP $12.95
  The first 6 hot issues in one tome!
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #392 $1.25
  David, Keown, Farmer
- ☐ IRON MAN #279 $1.25
  Kaminski, Ryan, Wiacek
  Part 13 of Galactic Storm!
- ☐ JAMES BOND JUNIOR #4 $1.25
  Benderson, Moss
- ☐ KID 'N PLAY #3 $1.25
  Coye, Frazier, Boyd
  Special "Fresh" issue!
- ☐ MARVEL AGE #111 $1.00
  Special John Romita Issue!
- ☐ MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #99 $1.50
  Various
- ☐ MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #100 $1.50
  Milestone issue by Mackie & Kieth!
- ☐ MARVEL SUPER HERO SPECIAL #9 $2.50
  Various
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #260 $1.25
  Cover by George Perez!
- ☐ MARVEL UNIVERSE MASTER EDITION #17 $4.50
  Everything you need to know — and more!
- ☐ MOON KNIGHT #37 $1.75
  Kavanagh, Garney, Palmer
- ☐ THE 'NAM #67 $1.75
  Featuring the Punisher!
- ☐ NAMOR #25 $1.25
  Byrne, Wiacek
- ☐ NEW WARRIORS #22 $1.25
  Nicieza, Bagley, Mahlstedt
- ☐ NFL SUPERPRO #7 $1.25
  More Super Adventures!
- ☐ PIRATES OF DARK WATER #6 $1.25
  Zimmerman, Zick
  The conclusion!
- ☐ PUNISHER #62 $1.25
  Baron, McLaurin, Mayerik
  Yes — he's a Big Gun!
- ☐ PUNISHER ARMORY #3 $2.00
  Brown
  The Big Gun's guns!
- ☐ PUNISHER: G-FORCE $4.95
  Baron, Haynes, Palmiotti
  A Big Guns Bookshelf!
- ☐ PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL #41 $1.75
  Dixon, Kwapisz
  Yes — another Big Gun!
- ☐ PUNISHER WAR ZONE #2 $1.75
  Dixon, Romita Jr., Janson
  Would'ja believe — a Big Gun?
- ☐ QUASAR #33 $1.25
  Gruenwald, Capullo, Candelario
  Part 10 of Galactic Storm
- ☐ SHE-HULK #38 $1.75
  Byrne, Williams
- ☐ SHIELD #34 $1.75
  Lobdell
- ☐ SILVER SURFER #64 $1.25
  Marz, Lim, Christopher
  Surfer battle Surfer!
- ☐ SIMPSON ILLUSTRATED ANNUAL 1991 $2.95
  Groening
  Like — DUH!
- ☐ SLEEPWALKER #11 $1.25
  Budiansky, Blevins, Bair
  Guest-Starring the Ghost Rider!
- ☐ SPIDER-MAN #21 $1.75
  Larsen
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #361 $1.25
  Michelinie, Bagley, Emberlin
  Why isn't this under "a"?
- ☐ SPIDER-MAN: FEAR ITSELF $12.95
  Conway, Andru, Esposito
  Ross Andru returns to Spidey!
- ☐ SPECTACULAR SPIDERMAN #187 $1.25
  DeMatteis, Buscema
  Funeral Arrangements continue!
- ☐ WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #87 $1.25
  Mackie, Saviuk, DeLarosa
  Why isn't this under "w"?
- ☐ THE THING #1 $1.25
  Classic Grimm Tales!
- ☐ THOR #446 $1.25
  DeFalco, Oliffe, Milgrom
  Part 14 of Galactic Storm!
- ☐ WARLOCK & THE INFINITY WATCH #3 $1.75
  Starlin, Leonardi, Austin
- ☐ WHAT IF? #36 $1.25
  Thomas, Lofficier, Hoover
- ☐ WOLVERINE #53 $1.75
  Hama, Silvestri
  Motel At The End of Time!
- ☐ WONDER MAN #8 $1.25
  Jones, Johnson, Harps
  Part 11 of Galactic Storm!
- ☐ WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING #1 $1.25
  Lackey, Wilson, Hudson
  It's an Over the Top Rope Battle Royal!
- ☐ X-FACTOR #77 $1.25
  David, Stroman, Milgrom
- ☐ X-FORCE #9 $1.25
  Liefeld, Nicieza
- ☐ X-MEN #7 $1.25
  Lee, Byrne
  Who is Omega Red?
- ☐ X-MEN CLASSIC #70 $1.75
  Double-Sized special!
- ☐ UNCANNY X-MEN #287 $1.25
  Byrne, Portacio
- ☐ YUPPIES FROM HELL #3 $2.95
  Slate
  Has Nothing to do with Galactic Storm!

THE 1992 MARVEL AGE® CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

BY MIKE LACKEY AND DARREN AUCK

--IT'S ALL A BUNCH OF HOKUM!
PHOOEY!
A VALENTINE! RICK, YOU'RE SO SWEET!
LOUSY, STINKIN' ALIEN!
A THOROUGHLY GOOD B-DAY TO RON FRENZ!
1
I LUV YOU!
RENEE! HELP!
5
Q: WHY IS TONY STARK'S HEART LIKE A BROKEN DRUMSTICK?
6
A: IT CAN'T BE BEAT!
7
GAK!
HAPPY B-DAY, TO TERRY STEWART!
8
THE PREZ
HAPPY B-DAY, LOU BANK!
12
HAPPY VALENTINES DAY MASSACRE!
14
13
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
15
HAPPY B-DAY JOE CAPONSACCO!
DID YOU SAY CAPTAIN PSYCHO?
19
THOMAS(D) JACOBS(R) COLBRAITH(D)
20
RICK--WHAT ARE YOU SINGING?
21
A BALLOT!
22
D'OH!
JACK O'LANTERN
25
26
ANDY KUBERT WAS BORN ON THIS DAY!
27
HAPPY B-DAY TO JJ BIRCH!
28
HAPPY 10th B-DAY TO NEL YOMTOV!
27